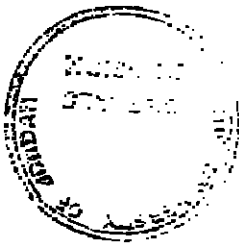


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Committee formed to reactivate Kuwait's economy

KUWAIT, Dec 5, (Kuna): HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah had a meeting this evening at Bayan Palace with representatives of the government and private sectors who contributed in drafting studies on activating the national economy.

The Council of Ministers formed a committee headed by the governor of the Central Bank to co-ordinate with the various concerned bodies for the activation of the country's economy.

The Crown Prince delivered a statement at start of the Bayan Palace meeting recalling that it was not the first but that they had already met in Shaab Palace during which a comprehensive review of the country's economic situation was made.

Sheikh Saad noted that at the first meeting after hearing a report by "the committee on activating economic movement in the country" and to com-

mentaries, "we resolved that another study should be prepared including developments and changes that occurred in the few past years."

An agreement was then reached that the government, represented by members of the ministerial financial and economic affairs committee, should prepare a report including the government's speculations and ideas and another report was prepared by the chairman and members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

His Highness said that members of the ministerial committee and the chamber chief handed their reports.

After reading proposals and recommendations in both reports, Sheikh Saad said, "I found it imperative to assign representatives of the public and private sectors to study them both."

A "unified report", the Crown Prince underlined

Laurel calls on Cory, Congress to resign Americans held

Makati fighting intensifies; toll now 77

MANILA, Dec 5, (Agencies): Troops loyal to President Corason Aquino today began retaking buildings from mutinous soldiers in the capital's financial district where about 2,000 foreign visitors, including 200 US citizens, were held virtual hostage by gunfire in the streets.

A source close to negotiations to evacuate the foreign tourists and visitors under a planned ceasefire agreement said the rebels had agreed to allow Asian and Europeans to leave but not the 200 US visitors in the area because of US support for Aquino.

One US resident said the Philippine government was shelling condominiums in the area to force the rebels out.

Hundreds of foreigners living in other parts of Makati, the suburban financial district, fled to safer areas in the capital as fighting intensified in the most serious of six bids to overthrow the 3 1/2-year old Aquino administration.

At least 77 people have been killed and more than 540 wounded since military mutineers launched the coup attempt last Friday.

Vice-President Salvador Laurel suggested that he, Aquino and Congress step down and call new elections to end the carnage. The leader of the main pro-Aquino party recommended that Aquino dismiss her cabinet as a gesture to the rebels.



A tired pro-government soldier shows the strain as he tries to relax after fighting against rebels in Makati. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hirawi will ask Syria to leave Fighting erupts in Beirut

BEIRUT, Dec 5, (Agencies): Christian and Muslim factions exchanged fire on Beirut's Green Line today, wounding at least five people and triggering panic among residents who fear another wave of violence.

Newly elected President Elias Hirawi said in remarks published today he will ask Syria to withdraw its troops from areas where the Lebanese government can extend its authority once the "abnormal situation" in Christian East Beirut ends.

Hirawi said he received two telephone calls two days ago from US Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly "who confirmed on behalf of the United States that a solution is forthcoming and that stability will return to Lebanon and its sovereignty will be re-established on its territory soon."

Fighting erupted for one hour along the Green Line that divides the capital into Muslim and Christian sectors and shells crashed on residential areas close to the demarcation line.

Police said three people were wounded in the Christian enclave, among them a Christian army officer, and a woman was wounded in West Beirut.

Another soldier was wounded by a sniper bullet in the Dahr Al Wahsh front in the mountains.

Lebanese have feared renewed violence since Hirawi threatened to use force to oust Christian strongman Gen. Michel Aoun from the presidential palace in Baabda.

Panicked drivers blew horns to clear their way as pedestrians ran for safety. Parents rushed to schools to bring their children home and businesses and shops closed.

Aoun, a Maronite Christian who was named head of an interim government in September 1988, refuses to recognise Hirawi, also a Maronite, or the appointment of a new army commander. He vowed not to leave the Baabda palace or quit his posts unless "the people ask me to go."

Hirawi, whose predecessor Rene Muawad was assassinated last month, dismissed any pos-



Arab girl arrested
A young Palestinian girl struggles with Israeli policemen yesterday, as she is arrested outside the occupied East Jerusalem bus station. The policeman on her left carries a tear gas gun. (Reuter wirephoto)

As fighting escalated, the US embassy and others urged their nationals to flee Makati. Scores of Americans arrived at the US seafloor housing compound, which was guarded by US marines. Others moved to hotels near Manila Bay, about eight kilometres (five miles) west of the fighting.

Tourism undersecretary Rafael Alunan negotiated for hours today with the leader of rebel soldiers in Makati on freeing the foreigners trapped in three luxury hotels and condominiums.

The talks in the Intercontinental hotel ended at sunset, and Alunan said they would continue tomorrow.

"They've decided to postpone it for tomorrow because it's nightfall and we don't want the tourists to be mistaken for soldiers," Alunan said. He said some details remained to be settled but refused to reveal them.

Capt Albert Yen, one of the insurgents, said, "the intention is not to release Americans." US embassy spokesman Jerry Huchel said about 215 Americans were believed to be in the hotels.

"US meddling has caused the failure of the first wave of our assault, so we hold them liable," Yen said. "It is the responsibility of the US government if we take their nationals hostage."

On Friday, US F-4 jet fighters prevented rebels from flying military aircraft from one of two air force bases they controlled. The rebels bombed the presidential palace on Friday before the US planes intervened.

Yen said the coup attempt was codenamed "Seven Days and Seven Nights in December," and would involve a seven-stage operation to topple the government. He said the takeover of the financial district, which began on Saturday, marked the second stage.

President George Bush told Aquino he was concerned about the safety of US citizens trapped

Indian cabinet sworn in

Arun Nehru, Ajit Singh and Unnikrishnan are among 15 ministers

NEW DELHI, Dec 5, (Agencies): Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who swept Rajiv Gandhi out of office with a pledge to fight corruption, presented a new council of ministers today that includes three of Rajiv's former ministers.

Oaths of office were administered to 15 cabinet ministers and two lower-level ministers of state. Together they comprise the council of ministers, along with Singh and Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal who were sworn in Saturday.

No portfolios were announced during the televised half-hour ceremony presided over by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman at the presidential palace.

Singh told reporters portfolios would be announced tomorrow. He said more ministers would be announced later.

He denied the delays were caused by dissension within his National Front centrist coalition, which was created this year by people who had little in common except their opposition to Rajiv and his Congress Party.

The coalition combined to create the most cohesive opposition force since India became independent 42 years ago, and it resulted in the Congress Party being bumped from power for only the second time since then.

Singh, leader of the National Front, must seek parliament's vote of confidence for his government by the end of December.

The new ministers include Rajiv's estranged cousin and his former Minister of State for Home Affairs, Arun Nehru; ex-Tourism Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed; and ex-minister of State for Industry Arif Mohammed Khan.

The ministers of state included Maneka Gandhi, Rajiv's estranged sister-in-law.

Maneka widow of Rajiv's younger brother Sanjay was thrown out of Rajiv's house in 1982 after she quarrelled with her mother-in-law the then-prime minister Indira Gandhi who was later assassinated.

Others are Prof Madhu Dandavate, George Fernandes, Ajit Singh, Sharad Yadav, I.K. Gujral, P. Upendra, Dinesh Goswami, P. Unnikrishnan, Murasari Maron, Ramvilas Paswan Nilamni Rourty and M.S. Gurupadswami.

Three ministers of state are Maneka, Manubhai Kotadia and Yashwanth Sinha.

Former Karnataka Chief (Continued on Page 12)

Vogel detained for suspected blackmail Honecker under house arrest

EAST BERLIN, Dec 5, (Reuter): East Germany's state prosecution service today ordered the arrest of top lawyer Wolfgang Vogel for suspected blackmail, the official ADN news agency said.

Former East German leader Erich Honecker and other top officials are under house arrest at their elite compound north of Berlin, ADN news agency said today.

Vogel is one of East Germany's best known figures, responsible over decades for arranging dramatic East-West spy swaps and fixing humanitarian deals across the superpower divide.

ADN said the state prosecutors had ordered the temporary arrest of Vogel and applied for a custody order. It did not say whether Vogel, a close associate of Honecker, had been taken in by police.

"Vogel is suspected of criminal blackmail," ADN said.

Honecker is under house arrest, the prosecutor general has quit, 114 senior officials are under suspicion of abusing their power and a top foreign trade dealer has absconded leaving behind a hornet's nest of shady arms deals.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today flatly rejected West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's German unity programme, saying parts of it were tantamount to issuing orders to East Germany.

(See Page 7)

French train sets rail speed record

PARIS, Dec 5, (Reuter): France's high-speed TGV train hurtled through the countryside at 480 kph (300 mph) today breaking the world rail speed record set last year by a West German train.

TGV train 325, comprising two engines and four coaches, touched the record speed around noon in the central French region of Touraine, the state-owned SNCF Railways said.

A West German ice experimental train held the old record of 409.9 kph (256 mph).

Thatcher defeats challenge

LONDON, Dec 5: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was confirmed as leader of Britain's ruling Conservative Party but lost 60 of the possible 374 votes in the party's annual leadership election. The result could open the way for a more serious challenge to her position.

(Related stories - Page 5)

Huge crowds besiege Armenian Parliament Situation very tense

MOSCOW, Dec 5, (Reuter): Huge crowds laid siege all night to the parliament building in Soviet Armenia after deputies refused to scrap the Communist Party's automatic right to rule the republic, a local activist said today.

Armenian national movement spokesman Ovanes Muradyan said up to 40,000 protesters surrounded the Parliament from seven pm (1600 GMT) last evening to five am (0200 GMT) this morning.

They demanded that a proposal calling for an end to the party's automatic right to power in the republic be abolished and refused to let deputies leave the building, he said.

"Today there were demonstrations all over the city. The situation is very tense," Muradyan told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The Parliament also rejected proposals to free all political prisoners, suspend Kremlin laws until they had been approved by the Armenian Parliament and stop the practice of appointing the republic's leaders from Moscow.

"If the Parliament doesn't return to discussion of the proposals tomorrow, the movement will consider calling a general strike," Muradyan said.

On Friday, US F-4 jet fighters prevented rebels from flying military aircraft from one of two air force bases they controlled. The rebels bombed the presidential palace on Friday before the US planes intervened.

Yen said the coup attempt was codenamed "Seven Days and Seven Nights in December," and would involve a seven-stage operation to topple the government. He said the takeover of the financial district, which began on Saturday, marked the second stage.

President George Bush told Aquino he was concerned about the safety of US citizens trapped

GCC state tries for Iran-Iraq summit

JEDDAH, Dec 5, (AP): One of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council member states is mediating for an Iran-Iraq peace summit, the Saudi Arabian newspaper Asharq Al Ahsan reported today.

The paper, in a report from Kuwait attributed to unidentified Gulf diplomatic sources, said the mediation bid has already made "important strides."

The country involved, most likely Kuwait or Oman, was not identified.

It said Iraq has given a conditional approval of the proposal, insisting that the summit lead to the signing of a memorandum on comprehensive peace in which solutions for all pending issues would be outlined.

Among these conditions, Iraq wants an immediate exchange of prisoners of war within days of the summit and "decisive settlement" of the issue of Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt Al Arab, the paper said.

Iraq also wanted Iran "to pledge to start a new page in relations not only with Iraq but with all Arab states of the Gulf and to cease interfering in the affairs of any regional state," the paper said.

There was no detailed information on Iran's reaction, "but there are indications that there is a real desire for peace and for opening a new page in relations of good neighbourhood and co-operation with all countries of the region," the paper added.

There was no official confirmation for the report in any of the GCC capitals, but diplomatic sources noted that both Iraqi and Iranian leaders have increased their statements lately about their interest in turning a year-old ceasefire between their two countries into a formal peace.

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Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Faiaka: 14°C 57°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 71 per cent
Ahmad: 68 per cent
Faiaka: 78 per cent

Fighting in Beirut spreads panic

(Continued from Page 1)

sibility of a military operation against the Christian enclave. "I have never been an advocate of war... I have always called for peace, love and unity of ranks. Therefore, what is being rumoured that I will give the green light to occupy East Beirut is sheer hysteria," Hirawi told the independent An Nahar news-

paper. Hirawi, elected in accordance with an Arab-brokered peace plan endorsed by the majority of Lebanese lawmakers in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on Oct. 23, pledged to ask Syria to withdraw from some areas. "When the prevailing abnormal situation in East Beirut ends, I will ask the Syrian army to withdraw from areas where the

Lebanese government can extend its authority," he said without defining these areas. "This will happen as soon as possible and it is a pledge that I undertake on the presidency and the new government," he said. As to the presence of Syrian troops in the remaining areas under their control, Hirawi said the Syrians are asked "to help us eliminate all irregularities

imposed on the Lebanese by illegitimate armed forces. "Only then we will ask them (Syrians) to withdraw from these areas so that our own legitimate forces take charge of security in Lebanon."

In the eastern Bekaa valley, Syrian army officers and Iranian embassy officials mediated a ceasefire between rival Shiite Muslim militias after they clashed yesterday, killing 10 people and wounding 30.

Security sources said the pro-Syrian Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah agreed to allow Red Cross officials to enter Mashghara and other disputed villages.

Hezbollah freed 19 Amal militiamen captured yesterday and both groups pulled fighters and heavy guns out of the villages.

Meanwhile, the Amal was reorganising its militiamen in the Syrian-policed Bekaa valley, apparently preparing for a counter-attack to regain control of the villages of Sohmar, Yohmor and Mashghara.

Amal lost the three strongholds to Hezbollah in fierce overnight fighting. Syrian troops stayed out of the battles, but scores were deployed today at an Amal base at the northern entrance to Mashghara.

Further south, pro-Israeli gunners of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia shelled South Lebanon for the fourth consecutive day.

Security sources said they wounded seven people in the Muslim village of Braasheet, just outside Israel's self-declared security zone set up to stop attacks across Israel's northern border.

Five people were killed and more than 18 wounded in SLA attacks on the market town of Nabatiyeh yesterday.

The SLA gunners, the spokesman said, also kept up an intermittent barrage on Nabatiyeh and its surroundings, wounding a woman. The shelling blocked funeral processions for five of people killed in similar shelling yesterday.



Ali Al Khalil (right) during an interview with Kuna correspondent in Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebuild Lebanon

Arabs urged

BEIRUT, Dec. 5, (Kuna): A Lebanese official today assured determination of the national unity government to remove all hindrances in the way of rebuilding the country and warned that the rebellion led by former army commander General Michel Aoun could end in Lebanon's partition and Balkanisation.

Finance Minister Dr Ali Khalil also called for a Marshall plan for reconstruction of war-torn Lebanon to be financed by Arab and international loans.

Dr Khalil, who is also acting foreign minister, made the statements in an exclusive interview with Kuna here today.

He said the country's elected authority would use all means at its disposal to oust Aoun from the Baabda presidential palace, explaining that the means include political, diplomatic, judicial and financial measures.

Once all these means are exhausted, there will be no other option than using the regular Lebanese armed forces if necessary to avert Lebanon's partition, Balkanisation and disintegration, the minister said.

The Arab committee, comprising leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, had brokered the accord which ended a six-month round of fierce clashes between the two sectors of Beirut, that erupted last March and claimed the death and injury of thousands of civilians and inflicted heavy material damage.

He indicated that peaceful means to tackle the situation would be exhausted and that time would be allowed for external and internal mediation to persuade Aoun to heed government orders and relinquish his hold on Baabda palace and other government institutions seized by force and intimidation.

Bogota jet blast

Brought down by a bomb

BOGOTA, Dec. 5, (UPI): Colombian and US investigators have determined that an Avianca airliner that crashed Nov. 27, killing 111 people, was brought down by a bomb apparently hidden in the passenger cabin, said a communicate published Tuesday.

The communicate, published in the newspaper El Espectador as an official statement from US and Colombia investigators, said experts found "indisputable evidence" of an explosive device in the passenger cabin, probably hidden on the floor near seat 15-F. The report said the bomb blast caused the plane's fuel tanks to explode, apparently explaining early reports of two explosions seconds apart.

The communicate was attributed to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, US aviation officials and Avianca experts. However, its authenticity could not be immediately verified with other sources. The US embassy in Bogota said it had not released any such statement.

"The chemical nature of the explosive and the detonation system are still unknown," said the communicate. The Boeing 727 exploded about four minutes after taking off from Bogota's El Dorado international airport.

A caller to a radio station shortly after the crash claimed the downing of Avianca flight HK 1803 was the work of "the extraditables," the self-styled group of cocaine cartel terrorists who launched a wave of bombings and killings after Colombia reinstated its extradition treaty with the United States in August.

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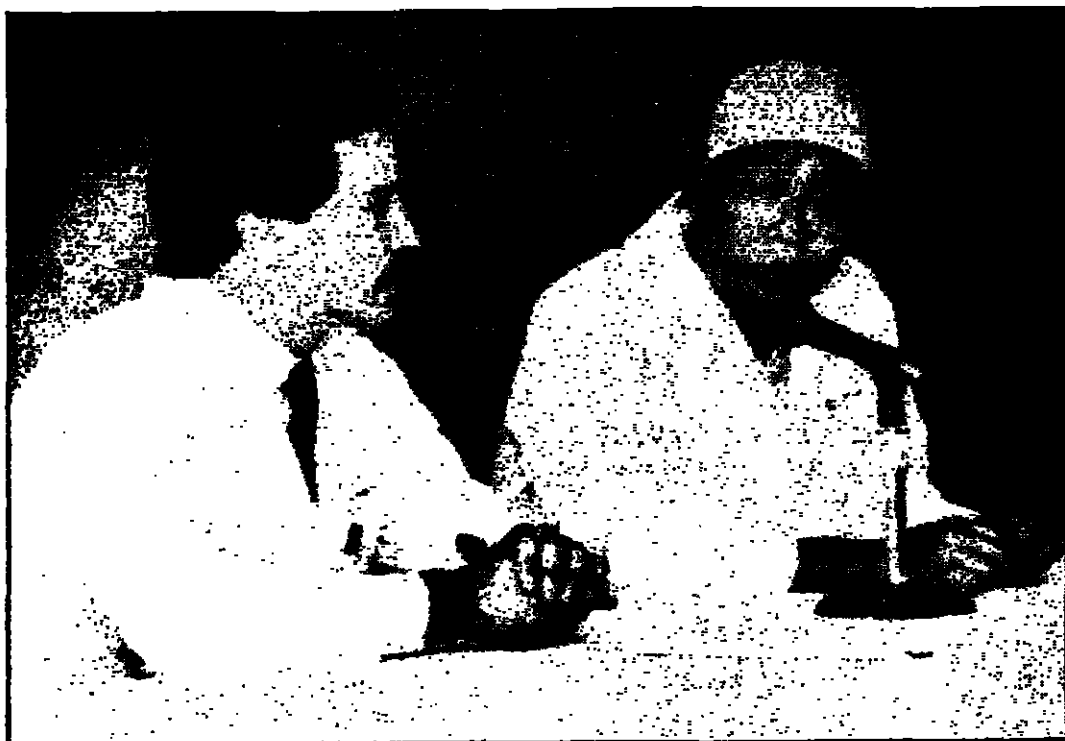
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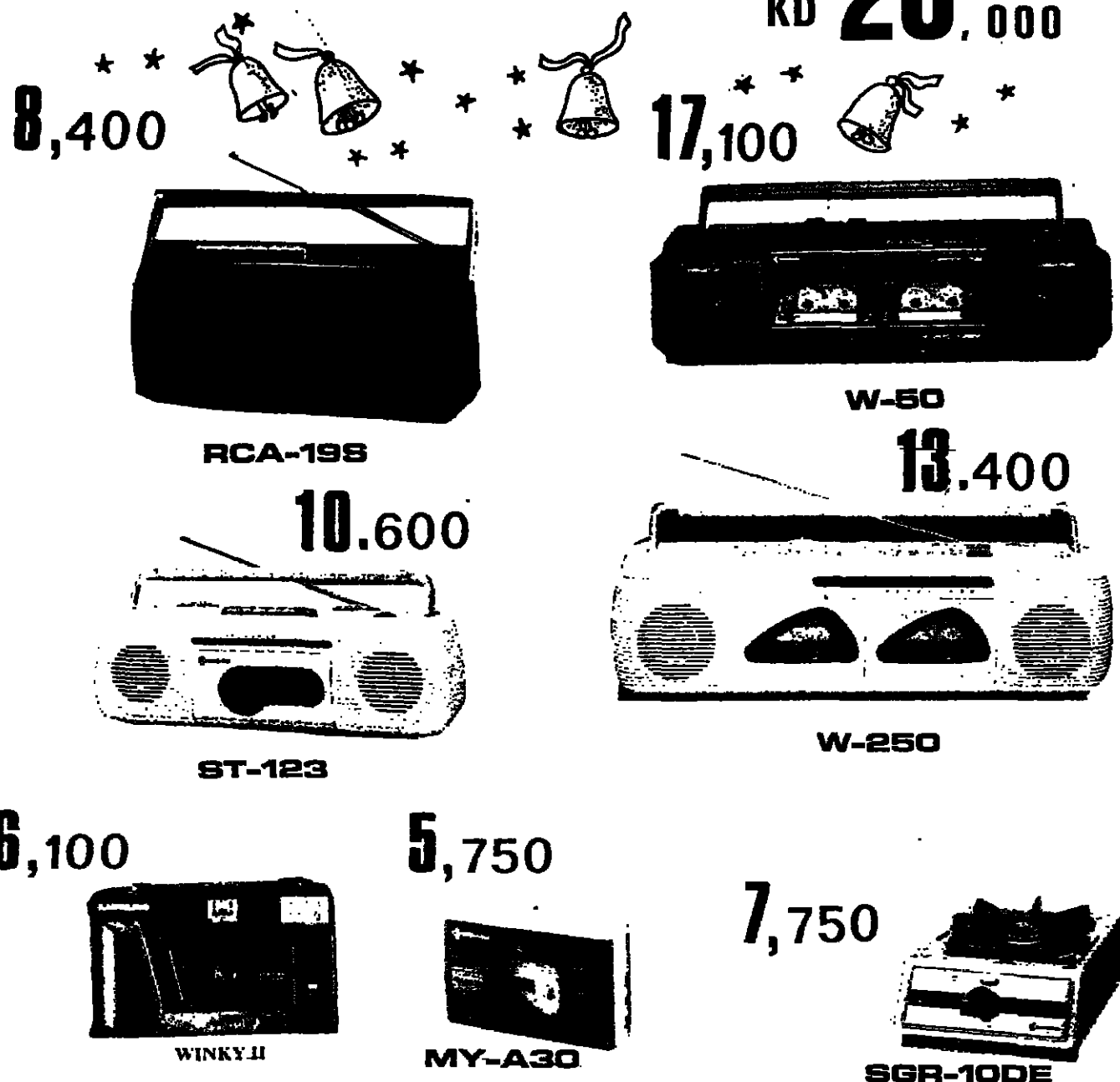
Normal life forecast for triple transplantee



Dr Armitage shown left and Dr Toto answer questions at a news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pharmacists develop cure against dental plaque

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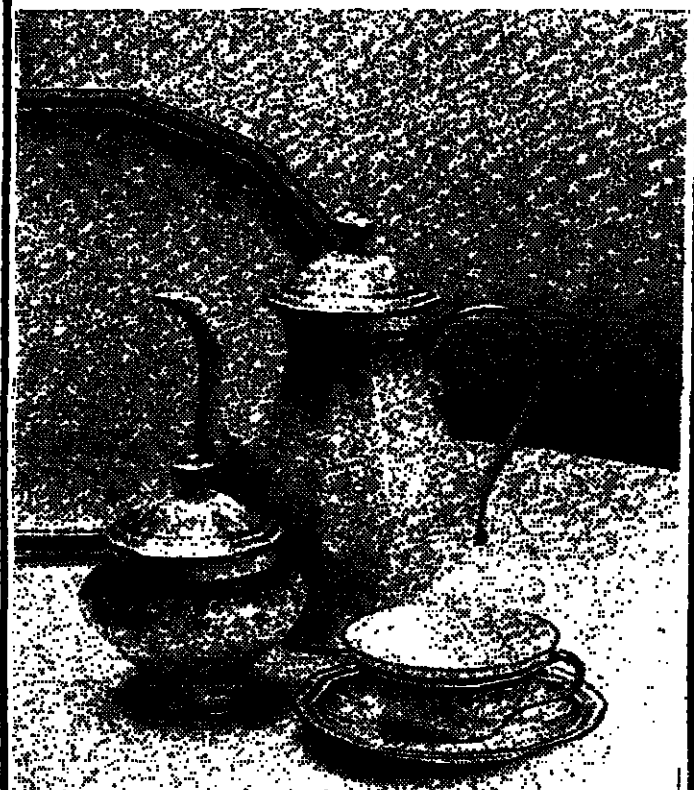
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Injured soldier evacuated

A wounded Salvadoran soldier is helped into an armoured car by his colleagues before being evacuated after fighting with FMLN guerrillas in Zacatecoluca, El Salvador on Dec 4. At least one soldier was killed in the fight. (Reuters wirephoto)

Centam summit in Costa

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec 5, (AP): The next summit meeting of five Central American presidents will be in Costa Rica next week, sources close to President Oscar Arias said yesterday.

The meeting, scheduled for Dec 10-12, was transferred from Nicaragua and will likely take place in Heredia, nine miles (14.4 kms) outside the capital of San Jose, said the sources, who did not want to be identified, and Guatemala government spokesman Carlos Anleu.

The summit was moved from Managua because Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani refused to go to Nicaragua.

■ **Cuba:** Cuba's armed forces commanders, dismissing suggestions of divisions in their ranks, have pledged their continuing loyalty to President Fidel Castro and communism.

"I speak in the name of our revolutionary armed forces. And I say this with all my comrades... We will never fail our party, our communist principles or Fidel," Cuban navy chief Rear-Admiral Pedro Perez Betancourt said in a speech on Sunday marking Cuba's armed forces' day.

In his speech, published in full in the Communist Party newspaper Granma, Perez said Cuba's enemies were deluding themselves by thinking the country was weak or divided internally.

"They will not find here a single flaw, not the slightest weakening, not the slightest possibility of turning back socialism," he added.

■ **Bolivia:** The governing coalition was ahead nationwide in returns from municipal elections Sunday, but populist parties won a majority in La Paz and made a strong showing elsewhere, preliminary results showed.

The elections for councilmen for towns and cities were marked by a high rate of absenteeism and took place under a state of siege. No violent incidents were reported.

At least 40 per cent of the 1.8 million Bolivians registered to vote stayed away from the polls, the electoral court said.

Ricochet

Dog shoots the hunter

OSLO, Dec 5, (Reuters): A Norwegian hunter was shot when one of his hounds stepped on a gun, police said today.

The 50-year-old hunter was taking a coffee break with two companions when Terna, a one-year-old hare hound, trod on a pile of loaded shotguns which had been left lying on the ground. Pellets ricocheted off a rock and hit the hunter in the face and arm. He was not seriously hurt.

Rebels' Sam misses target

Salvador relaxes curfew

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 5, (Agencies): Leftist rebels fired heat-seeking missiles at Salvadoran jets during air attacks on southern El Salvador yesterday but missed their targets, the armed forces said.

During fierce combat in Zacatecoluca, the provincial capital, 55 km (35 miles) south of San Salvador, rebels fired four Soviet-made Sam 7 missiles at fast-flying A-37 air force jets, but the missiles went astray, an armed forces spokesman said.

While fighting raged for more than eight hours in Zacatecoluca, the government eased a nation-wide curfew and allowed radio news programmes to return to the air.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew was reduced by five hours — now from 11 pm to 5 am — after a weekend of calm in San Salvador.

The curfew was first declared on Nov 12, the day after the start of the leftist rebel offensive in which more than 2,000 rebels and soldiers have died in three weeks of fighting, according to the armed forces.

But on the first night with the reduced curfew, a series of powerful explosions rocked the northwestern sections of San Salvador late yesterday.

The blasts, accompanied by sporadic fire of automatic rifles, were centred near the slopes of the San Salvador volcano and the wealthy Escalon neighbourhood, where rebels have launched two major assaults during the offensive, police said. They had no further details on the explosions.

In Zacatecoluca, the armed forces said eight guerrillas were killed and one government soldier wounded during the combat, that began at 5 am (0900 GMT) and ended around midday.

One woman was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade landed on her house and a child died after being caught in crossfire between the two sides, the spokesman said.

President Alfredo Cristiani suspended diplomatic relations with Nicaragua for allegedly supplying the rebels with the missiles after a light plane crashed carrying 24 Sam-7s two weeks

into the offensive.

Cristiani reported the rebels had used Sam-7s for the first time last week but they have yet to down an air force jet, which along with other aircraft have been used with devastating effect during the offensive.

The armed forces spokesman said rebels had retreated to the flanks of a volcano above Zacatecoluca, after advancing to a war-battered hospital inside the city limits.

In San Salvador, a pre-trial hearing for a US churchworker charged with hoarding arms for the rebels was postponed yesterday because of confusion over how to enforce El Salvador's state of siege laws.

Connecticut native Jennifer Jean Casolo could make her first court appearance facing charges under recently approved "anti-terrorist" laws, court officials said.

Sources close to Casolo's Defence said they believe her arraignment was put off because of the large number of national and international reporters who maintained an all-day vigil outside the military court of first instance where she was expected to be arraigned.

Former US attorney-general Ramsey Clark, who specialises in representing Americans abroad, said on Sunday that he expected his client to plead not guilty to charges that had not yet been disclosed by the Salvadoran government.

"Our guess is that there will be what would be the rough equivalent in the United States to a preliminary arraignment," Clark said.

Acting on a tip from a captured guerrilla, police raided Casolo's San Salvador residence on Nov 26 and discovered hundreds of explosives and more than 80,000 rounds of ammunition on the property.

Casolo worked for Christian educational seminars, a US religious group that organises tours in El Salvador.

Four episcopal bishops planned to travel to El Salvador to "consult with government officials about the release of episcopal church workers still being detained," church officials said.

Probe against ex-Hud secretary

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (UPI): The Justice Department said it will conduct an investigation into possibly criminal activities by former Reagan administration Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce, which could lead to the appointment of a special prosecutor.

The decision, made as time was running out for legal action, represents an escalation of the inquiry into the multimillion-dollar scandal at the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Reagan years.

Pierce has insisted he has broken no laws, but he has refused recent requests that he testify to congressional committees looking into political

favouritism in the awarding of housing contracts.

Democrats on the House of Representatives Judiciary committee asked Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh on Nov 2 to seek the appointment of a special prosecutor, contending the evidence indicates Pierce may have been involved in a conspiracy to defraud the government and may have committed perjury.

Tetimony before a house investigative subcommittee has centred on charges of payoffs, fraud and political favouritism during Pierce's eight years at HUD.

Pierce testified once about his

Prosecutors doubt Poindexter testimony

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (AP): Two Iran-Contra prosecutors said yesterday they had not been tainted by John Poindexter's immunised congressional testimony and should be allowed to handle the criminal case against the former national security adviser.

Dan Webb, a former US attorney in Chicago, asserted during nearly 2 1/2 hours of questioning by a defence attorney that he had paid little attention to Poindexter's nationally televised appearances on Capitol Hill.

"I could not tell you if you held a gun to my head one single fact" about Poindexter's testimony in

activities but then asserted his rights against self-incrimination under the fifth amendment of the constitution in two subsequent sessions and refused to testify

July 1987, Webb said at a pre-trial hearing to consider whether the case against Poindexter should be dismissed.

Webb, who was in private law practice at the time of the congressional Iran-Contra hearings, said he recalled questions raised in the news media about "whether President (Ronald) Reagan had ordered subordinates to lie or obstruct Congress."

Webb said he also remembered questions about "whether the president was involved in arms to Iran for hostages" and "generally whether the president knew of the diversion of funds from the Iran effort."

Thornburgh now has 60 days to conduct the investigation and decide whether to ask a special federal court to name an independent counsel.

The Democrats said in their Nov 2 letter the evidence to date dictates the need for an independent counsel.

Largest eruption dated 1700 BC

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 5, (Reuters): The most powerful volcanic eruption in recorded history occurred in the late 17th century BC, a blast on an Aegean island equal to two million Hiroshima-type atomic bombs, US scientists said yesterday.

Researchers from the jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California, and the University of California at Los Angeles said effects of the explosion were felt around the world and are believed to have been the source of Plato's story of Atlantis, an island civilisation that sank into the sea.

The scientists said they dated the eruption on the island of Thera, now called Santorini, by using Chinese historical records, cores dug from the ice of Greenland and tree ring studies.

The Chinese records reported the sun dimmed and there were heavy rainfalls following the eruption.

Jet propulsion laboratory scientists Kevin Pang said recent archaeological studies suggest that Atlantis actually may have been the Minoan centres of Crete destroyed by tsunamis waves from the volcanic eruption.

"One previous study of the historical accounts of the atmospheric effects of very large eruptions recorded in Greenland ice cores has been 100 per cent successful," said Pang.

Thousands of tiny earthquakes since May indicate molten rock is moving beneath mammoth mountain volcano, but an eruption is unlikely at the popular ski resort, the US geological survey said.

"While eruptive activity was a consequence of this current earthquake swarm cannot be ruled out, observations at many volcanoes in the world suggest the most likely outcome... is a return to an extended period of relative quiescence," or quiet, the agency said in a statement.

Since May 4, the 11,053-foot (3,370-metre) mammoth mountain in the Sierra Nevada has bulged upward about one-half inch (1.3 cms) and has been rattled by thousands of small quakes, only four of which were stronger than magnitude 3 on the Richter scale, said Dave Hill, the USGS geophysicist in charge of monitoring the situation.

No one felt most of the tremors, some of which were only 1.5 miles (2.4 kms) deep and often came in rapid-fire bursts.

The most likely explanation is that molten rock, or magma, is being squeezed into a vertical crack that extends from 3.5 miles to 6 miles (5.6 to 9.6 kms) below Mammoth mountain's south flank, said Hill, who outlined his findings during the American geophysical union's fall meeting.

This sheathlike intrusion is called a dike, and excavations at many old volcanoes reveal that most dikes never erupt to the surface, he added.

"There's nothing particularly alarming about this activity. The chances of its leading to an eruption are small," Hill said.

Hundreds of small quakes jiggled the mountain each day during the peak of activity in June. Until mid-November, there were a dozen or fewer such quakes daily. And in recent days, the activity has diminished further.



Crewmen on the MV Greenpeace ship, wearing life preservers stuff cushions into a hole in the side of their vessel. (Reuters wirephoto)



Trident 2 missile bursts to the surface after being launched. (Reuters wirephoto)

US navy tows off Greenpeace tug

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Dec 5, (AP): The US Navy overpowered Greenpeace anti-nuclear protesters yesterday, crippling their vessels and towing them out of an area where they tried unsuccessfully to halt the Trident 2 missile test launch.

The events took place in the Atlantic Ocean 50 miles (80 kilometres) off the Florida coast just before the nuclear-powered submarine Tennessee unleashed the \$26.5-million missile on a test that put the Trident 2 programme back on track after two explosive failures in previous tests.

Greenpeace USA peace activists said the navy rammed their ship, aimed fire hoses down its smoke stacks to stop its engines and that navy frogmen had sliced the fuel lines and

punctured the pontoons on the zodiacs.

Shannon Fagan, a spokeswoman for the protesters, said a navy ship, the 254-foot (77-metre) submarine support ship USS Grasp, left two gashes in the hull of the USS Greenpeace, a 190-foot (58-metre) ocean-going tug. She said the largest, about three feet (almost a metre) long, was stuffed with mattresses to keep water out.

Cmdr Deborah Burnette, a navy spokeswoman, said navy officials at the scene reported only one gash about 10-15 inches (25-38 cms) in diameter in the Greenpeace hull.

She said she had no report on the other actions reported by Greenpeace.

"This is a terrible outrage," said Peter Babouth, executive director of Greenpeace USA, in a statement. "This is an unbridled act of aggression against a peaceful protest in international waters."

Fagan said Greenpeace was considering legal action against the navy.

The Stockholm branch of Greenpeace also said yesterday it was going to protest outside the US Embassy.

Greenpeace had successfully used the ship and zodiacs to block a Trident 2 launch attempt July 28. But the navy was ready for them this time.

Once the protesters' vessels were rammed outside the 5,000-yard (4,570-metre) launch area, the navy fired a 160-mm (6.3-inch) gun at the Greenpeace tug, which was damaged. It broke the Atlantic surface, tube in the deck. It broke the Atlantic surface, tube in the deck. It broke the Atlantic surface, tube in the deck.

The navy announced the success about 20 minutes after the 10:40 am (1540 GMT) launch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jet wing parts fall off: Federal investigators are seeking to determine why two wing sections of a Continental Airlines 747 fell off over the Pacific on a flight to Honolulu, officials said yesterday.

A leading-edge slat and an access door blew off the left wing 90 minutes into flight 15, forcing the plane to return to San Francisco international airport with its 214 passengers Saturday night.

It will not be known whether the passengers were in danger from the accident until an investigation is completed, Allan Pollack of the National Air Traffic Safety Board said. (UPI)

Pahlavi caretaker summoned: Princess Farah Diba Pahlavi's black Labrador retriever is back in the dog house after jumping a wall at her estate and attacking a neighbour's terrier.

Pahlavi, widow of the Shah of Iran, wasn't home when the Labrador retriever bit Pepper, a smaller, gray-and-white dog. So the princess' caretaker, Niels Christensen, was issued two summonses by police: one for allowing a dog to roam and another for allowing a dog to create a nuisance.

The summonses carried a total fine of \$80. Pahlavi was not home and could not be reached for comment. (AP)

Australia to ban tobacco ads: The federal government said today it plans to outlaw print cigarette advertising in an attempt to slash the \$2 billion US a year spent on health care for smokers.

The decision "reflects the concern that tobacco consumption is the major preventable cause of illness in the Australian community today," said Health Minister Neal Blewett.

The government has a clear responsibility to act to discourage Australians from smoking and particularly to reduce pressures on young people to take up smoking. (AP)

South pole trek to continue: The Soviet Union will provide fuel to drop food and supplies in Antarctica that will allow six men attempting the first unmechanised crossing of the continent to continue their trek, the expedition said yesterday.

Mechanical and weather problems during the past month had made it likely that the expedition's charter airplane company would not be able to bring in enough fuel to allow food caches to be put in place for the group, the announcement said.

But a permanent Soviet base in Antarctica said it would provide 12 tonnes of fuel from existing stores there to bridge the gap, the expedition said. (Reuters)



Don't be shame be game

A photograph of a poster put out by health officials in Australia's far north in the image of the Phantom aimed at promoting the need of safe sex in Aboriginal communities. Condoms were chosen because of the popularity of phantom comics among Aborigines. (Reuters wirephoto)

the group, the announcement said.

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Ozone hole normal

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (AP): The Antarctic ozone hole has closed for this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported yesterday.

The hole, actually a region of depleted ozone levels in the stratosphere over the South Pole, approached record levels in October, scientists said.

Ozone levels in that region have now returned to normal, said Walter Komhyr of NOAA's air resources laboratory.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere helps screen the Earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Scientists have been concerned that the hole over Antarctica could endanger marine life in that region and, if the depletion spreads, cause increased skin cancer and other health problems.

Scientists measure ozone in Dobson units, with a measurement of 270 to 300 considered normal for the area over the Antarctic.

When the ozone hole forms, levels drop drastically, setting a record at 125 Dobson units in 1987 and falling to 135 units this year.

Levels rebounded to 322 units by mid-November, then declined somewhat and are now estimated at near 300, Komhyr said in a telephone interview.

During the Antarctic spring the polar vortex, a band of winds, encircles the continent, preventing the air there from mixing with the atmosphere in other parts of the world.

During that period, temperatures drop to -125 degrees Fahrenheit (-87 Celsius) and colder in the upper atmosphere, creating a situation in which man-made chlorofluorocarbon chemicals can react with the ozone, destroying it. Those reactions cease later in the year, when temperatures warm to -70 degrees (-56 degrees) or so.

Soviets sending new helicopters to Nicaragua

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (AP): Just days before the Soviet-US summit meeting, a Soviet vessel left Leningrad for Nicaragua carrying four helicopters with potential military use. US government sources said yesterday.

The reported shipment, due to arrive in Corinto, Nicaragua, on Dec 18, comes as the Sandinista army is staging a substantial buildup in northern Nicaragua not far from base camps of the Contra rebels in southern Honduras.

While some officials expressed concern about the potential military impact of the MI-17 helicopters, they said the Soviets are likely to contend the aircraft are for commercial purposes.

Because such aircraft normally are sent to Nicaragua without weapons mounted on them, the delivery would not appear to contradict the reaffirmation on Sunday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that his country has ceased arms deliveries to Central America.

But the sources, who asked not to be identified, said the MI-17 has been used extensively by the Sandinista armed forces for carrying troops and as gunships. In the past, they said, MI-17's have been converted on arrival in Nicaragua for military use against the Contras.

President George Bush has said he does not challenge Gorbachev's assertions but has expressed

concern about what he has described as a continuing flow of Soviet bloc weaponry through Nicaragua to leftist rebels in El Salvador.

At his news conference in Brussels yesterday, Bush acknowledged that he and Gorbachev have "big differences" on Central America. He said he would like Gorbachev to use his influence to "facilitate democratic change" in the western hemisphere.

The sources said the Sandinistas now have about 38 MI-17's in their inventory. The MI-17 is an advanced version of the MI-8 helicopter and is more easily adaptable than the MI-8 for use as a gunship.



Ortega (right) and Ramirez acknowledge applause from supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thatcher stays leader

Result of leadership election 'troublesome'

LONDON, Dec 5, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was confirmed as leader of Britain's ruling Conservative Party today, winning 314 out of a possible 374 votes in the party's annual leadership election.

It was the first contested election since Thatcher ousted former prime minister Edward Heath as leader in 1975.

Rebel Member of Parliament Sir Anthony Meyer, who challenged Thatcher in protest against her opposition to closer integration with Europe, won 33 votes, committee organising the poll said in a statement.

The remaining votes, made up of abstentions, spoilt papers, or members of Parliament who failed to cast a ballot, were also viewed by party members as counting against the

Meyer, 69, defended his challenge in a series of interviews today.

"It has raised the whole question of whether Mrs Thatcher's policies and style of leadership are the ones which are most likely to win the next election for the Conservative Party and the ones which are best suited to Britain's needs at this critical juncture in the history of Europe," he told one questioner.

Liberal left-wing Conservatives — purged by Thatcher from government ranks as "wets" — said the total of 60 members who either voted for Meyer or abstained was a blow to the prime minister, although not necessarily a severe one.

In theory it meant she had the support of less than half the 650-seat House of Commons.

Under Conservative Party rules a leadership vote must take place within a month of the start of a new parliamentary session. The present sitting began on Nov 21.

Answering questions in Parliament shortly before the vote, Thatcher defended her record against opposition attacks.

"The proudest achievement is bringing Britain from the decline of socialism to the prosperity of conservatism, spending almost half a century against the odds on the road to success," Thatcher added.

The Times of London said



Thatcher: win

earlier today if the vote reveals tepid support for Mrs Thatcher, the party could face 12 months of squabbling before a more serious leadership challenge next year.

"The common view is that if there are no more than 45 abstentions and votes against her combined, Mrs Thatcher will have done well and will be secure until after the next general election," due by mid-1992, the paper said.

It said a total of 55 to 70 abstentions and votes against would be clearly damaging.

Thatcher's victory was a surprise, as she had been expected to lose. She had been accused of exploiting the party's symbol of a five-pointed star and a Kalashnikov rifle.

prime minister.

The result was seen as falling short of the overwhelming endorsement Thatcher's supporters were hoping for at a time when the Conservatives are trailing in opinion polls and the government is being buffeted economically.

The outcome, described as "troublesome" for Thatcher, could open the way for a more serious challenge to the prime minister, who does not need to call a general election until June 1992.

Thatcher 64, has been in office since winning the first of a record three successive elections in 1979. The longest-serving British prime minister of the 20th century, she said she will stay in office by "popular acclaim" as long as voters want her.

'Herrhausen was exploiting'

RAF claims killing

BONN, Dec 5, (Reuters): West Germany's Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrillas said they killed top banker Alfred Herrhausen last week in a letter received by news agencies today.

"We and the 'Wolfgang Beer Commando' executed the head of Deutsche Bank," said the letter, which was signed "Red Army Faction" and bore the group's symbol of a five-pointed star and a Kalashnikov rifle.

An earlier letter found near where Herrhausen's car was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb outside Frankfurt on Thursday also carried the RAF symbol but had no text and was simply signed "Wolfgang Beer Commando."

Beer was a suspected RAF member who died in 1980. His brother Henning is believed to be a leading member of the group's commando unit.

The letter, posted in Karlsruhe on Saturday, accused the Deutsche Bank of exploitation and called it a symbol of power and domination.

"(The bank) has been planning the invasion of Eastern Europe for years and now it and others are crouching in the starting blocks to subject the people there to its dictates and the logic of capitalist exploitation," it said.

Pan Am bombing case

Talb may be extradited

STOCKHOLM, Dec 5, (AP): Scottish investigators are expected to ask Sweden to extradite a Palestinian suspected of complicity in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, a newspaper reported today.

A court in Uppsala yesterday said it had approved the seizure of evidence from Mohammed Abu Talb's home last week because he was a suspect in a murder case in Scotland.

A police spokesman in Lockerbie, Scotland, refused to comment on the court's decision, and said only that "our inquiries are continuing in Sweden and elsewhere."

The bombing over the Scottish town on Dec 21, 1988, killed all 259 people aboard the jumbo jet and 11 on the ground.

There has been no official suggestion that Abu Talb, a resident of Sweden since 1983, was suspected of placing the bomb on board the aircraft, and it was unclear whether investigators believe he had a direct role.

Abu Talb, 35, a former member of the radical Palestine Popular Struggle Front, is awaiting a verdict on a separate charge of murder and attempted murder in connection with bombings in Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Stockholm in 1985 and 1986.

The Dagens Nyheter newspaper said today that British authorities would submit an extradition request before that verdict is announced. It is due on Dec 21.

The request would prevent Abu Talb's immediate release from detention in case he is acquitted on the other bombing charges, the report said. He was arrested in May.

A district court clerk in Uppsala, 42 miles (67 kms) north of Stockholm, said today that no extradition request had been submitted.

Legal experts said an extradition request could take several months to process, requiring the approval of the Supreme Court and the government.

Abu Talb was charged with the death of one person and the attempted murder of others in Copenhagen in an explosion outside the office of Northwest Orient Airlines on July 22, 1985. None of the other bombs caused casualties.

Three other Palestinians living in Sweden also were charged in the bombings. One was released pending the verdict after the six-week trial ended last month, an indication that he may be acquitted or receive a light sentence.

Scottish and Swedish investigators raided Abu Talb's home last week and seized 15 bags of clothing in an apparent search for a link to clothes from the suitcase that concealed the fatal bomb.

The clothing aboard the doomed flight came from a store in Malta, where Abu Talb reportedly was sighted two months before the explosion.

Abu Talb's passport showed he was on the Mediterranean island on Oct 19-20, 1988. Some reports said he was seen on Malta with another Palestinian, Hafez Daikamoni, another suspect in the case who is in detention on other charges in West Germany.

Abu Talb was questioned behind closed doors by the court on Friday. In its decision yesterday, the court ordered a continued black out on all proceedings in the case.

Bush reassures

Stand on Europe

LONDON, Dec 5, (Reuters): President George Bush today said he would not support a timetable for the completion of the single market in 1992 and for an open and liberal Europe, she said.

British officials said he told Thatcher that he understood the British press had "misinterpreted" his remarks at yesterday's meeting as being in some way anti-Thatcher.

"He telephoned... to say his views on European integration had not changed in any way and there is no change in his position, which is one of full support for the completion of the single market in 1992 and for an open and liberal Europe," she said.

Several newspapers said Bush, who met Thatcher at Camp David only 10 days ago, had snubbed Thatcher and was helping to push her into further isolation from her European partners.

"Magpie rocked by Bush" read the front-page headline of the best-selling Sun tabloid.

Briefing the 16 Western Nato allies after his weekend meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Bush had urged faster European integration and deeper arms cuts than previously envisaged.

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INTERNATIONAL

Denard booted, ready to leave

MORONI, Dec 5. (Reuters): An angry crowd of 500 Comorians shouted "murderer" as French mercenary leader Bob Denard as he left Moroni's main mosque today after attending a special religious ceremony boycotted by the islanders.

Denard, 60, entered the mosque surrounded by bodyguards who wore robes and caps.

The mercenary leader, who effectively seized power in the Indian Ocean islands after the assassination of President Ahmed Abdullah Abder-Rahman on Nov 26, was dressed in a grey suit with open-necked shirt and a cap.

Denard called the ceremony, known as the Hittima, to protest his innocence of any involvement in Abdullah's murder.

Usually the ceremony must be attended by 30 to 40 people said to be descendants of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to read extracts of the Holy Quran, but none turned up.

Local people said village communities prevented descendants of the Prophet and the Grand Mufti, the Islamic religious leader of the Comoros, from appearing at the ceremony.

Denard, who converted to Islam and married a Comorian wife after he led a mercenary invasion of the islands in 1978 to place Abdullah in power, drove off amid boos and cries of "assassin" from the hostile crowd.

The French news Agency Agence France-Presse quoted diplomatic sources as saying members of the guard were fortifying beachfront positions near the capital with heavy mortars yesterday, apparently to ward off an amphibious assault.

Journalists were barred from travelling to the sites reportedly being strengthened, AFP reported.

According to reports last week from the Islamic republic, the presidential guard, headed by Denard, has disarmed the police and army. Various diplomatic sources have accused Denard of either directing or carrying out the assassination.

Diplomatic sources in Moroni said yesterday that Denard has agreed in principle to leave the islands, depending on how much money he can take with him and on condition the approximately 30 French and Belgian mercenaries under his command also can go.

No destination has been decided, the sources said. Denard cannot return to France, where he would be jailed for organising a failed putsch in the West African state of Benin in 1977 that left several people dead.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) urged the international community today to expel white mercenaries from Comoros.

Convention

UN chains dogs of war

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 5. (Kuna): After a decade of bargaining, the General Assembly adopted yesterday a convention against mercenaries.

The document, which expresses concern about new links between drug traffickers and soldiers of fortune, now is open for signature and ratification which has to be completed by the end of next year.

In a statement, General Assembly president Joseph Garba of Nigeria, whose country initiated the convention in 1979, said the effort symbolises the political will of the international community to outlaw the activities of mercenaries that have not only contributed to the destabilisation of the affected states, but also plundered and looted villages and farms in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The assembly also adopted a resolution unequivocally condemning as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed, including those which jeopardise friendly relations among states and their security.



Bush explains

With the Nato emblem as a backdrop US President George Bush makes a comment at a news conference after a special Nato meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorby is in control: Bush

Committed to change

WASHINGTON, Dec 5. (AP): President George Bush says Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev seems "very much in control" in the Soviet Union and committed to peaceful change.

While refusing to proclaim the cold war over, Bush said Gorbachev's acceptance of dramatic reforms in Eastern Europe "absolutely mandates new thinking" by the West.

Bush returned to the White House last night after two days of summit talks in Malta and a stop in Brussels to brief Nato leaders. He was greeted by his wife, Barbara, who got a kiss, and dog, Millie, who got a pat.

As soon as he got to his private White House quarters, Bush called Philippine President Corason Aquino to express concern for the lives of Americans trapped in hotels in Manila by rebel forces trying to overthrow her.

Bush paid tribute to her courage in seeking to quell the rebellion. White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said, Aquino, Fitzwater said, assured Bush her government was doing everything possible to protect Americans.

Bush, in a concession to possible jet lag from trans-Atlantic travel, pushed back his schedule one hour today, receiving his daily intelligence briefing in the oval office at 9 am (1400 GMT) instead of 8 am later he was to brief his cabinet on the Malta summit.

Bush was in high spirits yesterday after giving Nato leaders an assessment of the summit. He said he assured them the United States would maintain "significant military forces in Europe."

Bush said he hoped the West could take steps to ease Soviet economic woes.

Bush said "it wasn't all sweetness and light" between himself and Gorbachev, mentioning they disagreed over Central America.

However, Bush said: "As I watched the way in which Mr Gorbachev has handled the changes in Eastern Europe, it deserves new thinking. It absolutely mandates new thinking."

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as long as our allies desire our presence.

At the same time, Bush said he would "kick our bureaucracy" and urge other Western countries to complete work on a treaty between Nato and the Warsaw Pact to reduce troops, tanks, artillery and other conventional forces in Europe by next year.

Bush told Nato leaders he hoped a multinational summit could be convened in Europe next summer to sign such an accord.

He said he wants that treaty "in the bank" before seeking deeper reductions. Negotiators working on the accord in the Austrian capital are making brisk progress but several issues are unresolved, most significantly a dispute over the kind of Soviet airplanes to be scrapped.

Asked if Gorbachev acted like a man in jeopardy, Bush said: "He seemed very much in control. You could tell the way he interacted with his own top people there. And he felt very confident in discussing without notes a wide array of subjects with me."

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Japan firm on defence buildup

TOKYO, Dec 5. (AP): Amid reports of routine 6 per cent growth in Japan's next defence budget, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that US-Soviet arms-control agreements will not stop the upgrading of this country's military capability.

Japan strongly supports progress towards arms reduction, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taro Watanabe said, responding to a question on whether arms-control developments signalled at the US-Soviet summit in Malta would affect Japan's defence programme.

Japan, he said, has been criticised for insufficiencies in its own defence, and the military buildup that has been under way for several years "is for the purpose of securing our self-defence."

"It is separate from arms reductions from that point of view," Watanabe told foreign journalists. "So our own efforts for improving our self-defence are not expected to change at the moment."

Different His comment symbolised both Japan's great distance from the swift improvement in big-power relations in Europe and the completely different strategic situation in the Far East.

Beyond that, the Japanese taxpayer seems unlikely to get any early benefit from the declared end of the cold war. Washington is talking about substantial cuts in military budgets, and US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney said recently there is evidence the Soviets have reduced military spending.

Japan, however, with a defence outlay judged third-biggest in the world, is looking for steady growth. The Asahi Shimbun and other newspapers reported last week that the Finance Ministry had agreed on an increase of just under 6 per cent in the defence budget for the fiscal year starting next April.

Important The budget will be about 4 trillion yen (\$27.3 billion), roughly 1 per cent of gross national product, the Asahi said. The US defence budget is more than 10 times as large, and the United States devotes about 6 per cent of GNP to defence.

Unlike Central Europe, with its fairly clear divide between two superpower camps on the ground, the Far East is a vast area in which control of the sea is a more important factor, and there are more contenders: the Soviets, China, the US-Japan alliance, and powerful smaller countries like Vietnam and the Koreans.

When US President George Bush said he and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had disagreed at Malta about reductions in naval forces, he had in mind the vast Pacific. The United States is a naval power, the Soviets are a ground power, and while they may agree to slash nuclear missile arsenals and reduce ground forces in Europe, Washington will need a lot of convincing to cut naval power.

Concerned Watanabe said Japan looked to the United States as leader of the industrial democracies and "in that capacity the United States has to maintain naval forces."

Japan depends for its defence on both its own military forces and US forces obligated by treaty to help Japan, Watanabe noted.

"We are very much concerned about this question of the position of the United States on naval forces," he added.

Under Gorbachev, Moscow has suggested several times that Japan talk about bilateral military issues, but Japan has refused, always citing its obligation to the United States under the defence treaty. The United States also rejects talking about naval reductions in the Pacific.

Cool ties Japan has cool relations with Moscow and demands that the Soviets return a group of islands off northern Japan that the Red Army took in the last days of World War II. The territorial dispute is the main issue blocking agreement on a peace treaty between the two countries, and only in the last year have they resumed cautious talks towards a treaty.

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8 hurt in Taipei clashes

Protest against vote-rigging continues

TAIPEI, Dec 5. (AP): Thousands of opposition supporters clashed with police in southern Taiwan today, the fourth day of demonstrations against alleged vote-rigging in this island's first multiparty election.

At least eight people, including five plainclothes policemen, were injured, police said.

Later today, the crowd in the southern city of Tainan swelled as thousands of protesters armed with clubs and stones flocked to a square next to government offices, the state-run radio said. Protesters were calling for a recount in an election won by a member of the governing

Nationalist Party. About 2,000 riot police cordoned off the square with barbed-wire barricades and set up water cannon.

Radio reports said police would forcibly clear the square if the crowd did not disperse. Huang Hsin-Chieh, chairman of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, went to Tainan in an attempt to defuse the situation and asked the county government for a recount. The government refused the request.

In the capital, meanwhile, newspaper reports said 814,000 votes were invalidated in Saturday's election. Central election

commission officials refused comment on the report.

The ruling Nationalist Party suffered its worst setback in 40 years in power in Saturday vote. The election, the first since martial law was lifted in 1987, was marred by allegations that the Nationalists rigged ballots.

Police said at least five plainclothes policemen were injured in Tainan when they clashed with club-wielding protesters. Demonstrators threw policemen's cameras into a nearby swimming pool, they added. Police often pose as reporters and move through protesting crowds, taking pic-

tures of demonstrators. Witnesses said several protesters also were injured and said at least two people were killed.

The post of county executive, one of the highest popularly elected offices in the country, Taiwan's president is elected by the people and county executives wield much local power.

In Saturday's race, the opposition won six of 16 county executive seats, up from two in 1986, when opposition candidates ran as independents because organised challenges to the Nationalists were outlawed.

Czech police violated human rights: inquiry

Reform leaders for more posts for non-communists

PRAGUE, Dec 5. (Agencies): A parliamentary commission investigating the use of force in quelling a student protest on Nov 17 said riot police kicked and punched demonstrators "without reason" even after the demonstration was over.

A dispatch distributed early today by the official CKT news agency quoted the commission, which includes members of the newly formed opposition group Civic Forum, as saying police not only violated human rights but threatened the lives of the demonstrators.

The report followed another mass demonstration in Wenceslas Square at which reform leaders warned they will call another general

strike if the Communist Party does not relinquish control of the government.

Speaking yesterday from the balcony of a sympathetic newspaper, about 200,000 people, leaders of Civic Forum criticized President Gustav Husak for naming only five non-communists to his 20-member cabinet on Sunday.

One banner inside the crowd read, "15 for 1.8 million, 5 for 13.2 million — can't you count?" referring to the 1.8 million Communist Party membership in Czechoslovakia, which has a population of 15 million.



Lucas Hades, a Czech soldier, gives the victory sign as he and a crowd of hundreds of thousands sing the Czech national anthem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Students set in change

PRAGUE, Dec 5. (AP): It all started when Prague students decided to strike in outrage over the brutal police repression of a peaceful rally to commemorate the killing of a student by the Nazis 50 years ago.

That strike two weeks ago set in motion a peaceful revolution that ended the Communist Party's monopoly on power in Czechoslovakia and led to Sunday's formation of the first coalition government with non-communist members since the ill-fated "Prague Spring" reforms of 1968.

Student leaders had been angered that a commemoration of the fatal beating of student Jan Opletal at the hands of the Nazi occupiers on Nov 17, 1939, should be met by similar violence.

They quickly turned the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Prague's old town into student strike headquarters.

"It became the birthplace of a revolution," Michael Cech, a weary-looking student there, told the Associated Press.

On Sunday, Cech had a moment to look back in amazement at the two weeks of breathtaking changes that ultimately sent millions into the streets and changed the political face of Czechoslovakia.

"We have witnessed a miracle," said the 22-year-old student. "I cannot explain it. Everything was possible."

Hundreds of students of the academy and associated

facilities in other schools swarmed out less than 72 hours after the police crackdown to plaster up rapidly drawn posters and mimeographed appeals urging popular support for the strike.

"Especially metro (subway) stations became huge bulletin boards," said Jakub Karofa, 18. "But the pamphlets also appeared everywhere else."

The response was massive and "like lightning," he said. The morale of the student strikes got a boost from the immediate backing of many secondary school classes in this capital city.

"It seemed that everybody had been waiting for something like this," Karofa said. "But no one had expected that the movement would be started by children."

"By Wednesday, we had computers set up, operated by students from Charles University's mathematics faculty," Cech added. "An old woman brought a printer for the computers, saying we may need it. Ordinary people came with tape recorders, video recorders, it was really incredible."

Students at other universities throughout the country were alerted by telephone and told about the situation in Prague.

Hundreds of thousands marched through the city Nov 20 in the first huge pro-democracy demonstration, still largely ignored by the state-controlled media.

Save earth call

Bhumibol turns 62

BANGKOK, Dec 5. (AP): The world's longest reigning monarch, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, marked his 62nd birthday today with warnings about environmental threats facing his country and the globe.

In a speech on the eve of nationwide birthday celebrations, the popular constitutional monarch urged Thais to preserve forests, manage water resources properly and avoid polluting the environment.

Citing warnings by scientists about the greenhouse effect, the King said rising seas may flood Bangkok and other Thai coastal cities in the next century if preventive measures are not taken.

Scientific research indicates the burning of fossil fuels may increase world temperatures and cause the melting of polar ice caps, raising sea levels.

"The practical way is to keep or improve all the good things we have, like forests and water resources and minimize all the bad things like ignorance and pollution," he said.

Bhumibol, who was named King in 1946 and crowned four years later, became the world's longest reigning monarch after the death of Liechtenstein's King Franz-Josef II last month.

Franz-Josef II had reigned 51 years, said his daughter, Princess Astura, who is currently in Bangkok.

Lights have been strung all over the city and huge portraits of Bhumibol have been hung by roadsides and on buildings in Bangkok. Court and public ceremonies are scheduled.

The King exercises considerable power and is regarded as a major force for stability in the country.

Radicals assaulted

TOKYO, Dec 5. (UPI): Thousands of riot police battling radicals opposed to the expansion of Tokyo's international airport, stormed a makeshift protest village today, demolishing a tower and beating and arresting one protester, police said.

Police using water cannons and construction cranes fought off radicals lobbying homemade gasoline bombs and demolished one of four protest towers built in the path of the planned expansion of the new Tokyo international airport at Narita, 40 miles (65 km) east of Tokyo.

Airport traffic was not disrupted, and police said there were no injuries, although television reports showed police in full riot gear kicking and beating at least one radical.

"It was a very dangerous situation and if we did not use some violence against the radicals, they may have injured the police," said Kohji Tateishi, a spokesman for the Chubu prefecture police.

Police estimate only four radicals remained in the towers and said they will attack the village again at daybreak to demolish the towers and arrest the radicals.

About 6,500 riot police have been dispatched to battle the radicals and guard the airport, police said.

Escaped terrorist suspects linked to S. African hit men

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 5. (AP): Three suspected right-wing terrorists who escaped from custody in Namibia had been linked to South African-based death squads believed responsible for assassinating two white activists, police said today.

The three men — one of them the leader of the Johannesburg branch of a Neo-Nazi paramilitary group — overpowered two police guards and escaped in a waiting car with two accomplices yesterday near Windhoek, Namibia's territorial capital. One of the policemen was seriously wounded by a shot from his own revolver, which had been seized.

The escapees, two South Africans and a West German, had been charged with murdering a black security guard in a hand grenade attack on a United Nations office in northern Namibia in August.

South African police said links had been established between the three and Ferdin-

and and Barnard and Calla Botha, two former South African police officers held in connection with the assassinations of David Webster in South Africa on May 1 and Anton Lubowski in Namibia on Sept 12.

Webster was a university lecturer and human rights advocate. Lubowski was the only white official of the South-West Africa People's Organisation, the main independence movement in Namibia.

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'Move to defuse Slovene-Serb row

BELGRADE, Dec 5, (AP): The state presidency warned yesterday that Yugoslavia's unity is threatened by a clash between the liberal-minded republic of Slovenia and hardline Serbia.

Slovenia yesterday demanded an urgent session of the federal Parliament, saying a Serbian decision to sever contacts with Slovenia could cause the collapse of the Yugoslav federation of six republics and two provinces.

A statement from the eight-member presidency, which has charge of the armed forces, said without elaborating that it will take all steps necessary to solve the worst crisis in communist Yugoslavia's 46 years of existence.

Deteriorated
The political situation "has dangerously deteriorated," and the conflict "seriously threatens Yugoslavia's integrity," said the statement, which was carried by Tanjug state news agency.

The latest row between the republics brings to a head a long series of bitter ethnic and political disputes endangering the unity of the country, which embraces several ethnic groups and religions.

Serbia cut political and business contacts with Slovenia on Wednesday, after authorities there banned a rally by Serbs.

Several Serbian businesses announced yesterday that they were closing branch offices in Slovenia, and cutting ties with firms in the northern republic.

Economists say the act will backfire on Serbia because it is economically much weaker than Slovenia.

Slovenia's leadership advocates regional autonomy and has legalised several opposition parties that are to contest the first free multiparty elections in postwar Yugoslavia, scheduled for March.

Favours
Serbia's leadership favours a centralised federation, and opposes Western-style political pluralism.

Slovenian politicians, and many Western leaders, want to impose their own brand of ideological orthodoxy on all of Yugoslavia and prevent multiparty pluralism spreading to other regions of the country.

According to press reports, Serbian protesters who were to stage a rally in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana on Dec 1 were seeking the ouster of Slovenia's reformist leadership.

Yugoslavia for years has been a socialist showcase despite its one-party system. It has a comparatively free press and no travel restrictions on its citizenry. But its political, economic and social problems have mushroomed since the death in 1980 of President Josip Broz Tito, who founded the modern Yugoslav federation in 1943.

The key defendant in Yugoslavia's largest political trial in decades accused the Serbian leadership yesterday of staging the trial to uphold repression in Kosovo province.

Azzam Vllasi, a former Communist Party chief in Kosovo, told the court that "the trial represents the worst possible violation of... human rights." Vllasi and 14 other ethnic Albanians are accused of engaging in "counter-revolutionary activities" and of inciting last winter's unrest in Kosovo in which at least 25 people died.

"A political trial has been staged on behalf of a policy which advocated repression in Kosovo so that (the province) may be ruled through a state of emergency instead of democratic methods," Vllasi said.

At the time, ethnic Albanians, who make up almost 90 per cent of the province's 1.9 million people, were angered by the enactment of constitutional amendments that limited the autonomy previously enjoyed by Kosovo.

The changes gave Yugoslavia's biggest republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is an administrative part, tight control over the affairs of the province.

Vllasi, whose trial opened on Oct 30 but was interrupted over procedural matters, strongly denied that he was in any way responsible for the deaths in clashes between protesters and security forces.



East Germans march during a demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

Allies split on Germany

BRUSSELS, Dec 5, (AP): US President George Bush's endorsement of a cautious and measured approach to reunifying Germany has instilled gratitude in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl but wariness among other NATO allies.

Bush indicated at a special session of Western alliance leaders yesterday that a single German state still loyal to NATO would, express the yearning of Germans for unity as well as the right to a nation's self-determination.

"We are not trying to accelerate the process," Bush later told a news conference, wrapping up his talks with allied leaders. "It's better to let things move on their own."

But his concept of a reunified Germany within a future Europe bound by common goals and values gave new life to an issue that stirs concern on both sides of the East-West divide.

"Self-determination must be pursued without prejudice to its outcome," Bush told reporters in recapping his view on reunification.

He said West Germany must remain committed to NATO and the European Economic Community and said reunification would have to be "peaceful, gradual, and part of a step-by-step basis."

Bush added that unification should occur "with due regard for the legal role and responsibilities of the allied powers," a reference to Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Past policy condemned

Party militia to suspend activities

EAST BERLIN, Dec 5, (AP): Officers of the workers' militia have urged the unit's members to renounce their pledge of loyalty to the Communist Party, according to the official news agency ADN.

ADN reported yesterday the officers at the main training school for East Germany's "fighting groups," a workers' militia under direct party command, called for the group to suspend activities and turn over its weapons to the Interior Ministry until a parliamentary vote on disbanding the militia.

In another sign of official revisionism, East Germany's new minister for national security was quoted as saying that uncompromising control of domestic dissent by secret police in the past was "a big mistake."

Also yesterday, several thousand people turned out for a rally by East Berlin police officers calling for more democracy and thorough clearing-up of all alleged corruption under communist rule.

At a school in Schöneberg district, officers of the militia felt bound to obey the call. They had been told to do so by the party's new minister for national security.

East Germany's Parliament, the people's chamber, "should decide about the continued existence of an armed unit with militia character under consideration of the views of all political forces," ADN quoted a declaration by the officers as saying.

The four countries — the main victors over Nazi Germany in World War II — still occupy Berlin and exercise rights elsewhere in Germany as a result.

Bush said he thought Kohl "feels comfortable" with the US terms on rejoining the two Germanys, and stressed that no time frame has been identified for reunification.

The "German question" dominated and intensified the alliance gathering called to discuss the weekend summit in Malta with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which also dwelled heavily on the democratic reform wave eroding Europe's political divide.

The changes reshaping Eastern Europe most directly affect the Germans, who have been separated in the post-war era into the rival camps of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Kohl spelled out his own 10-point plan for reunification before the special NATO gathering, and complained that some allies, whom he did not identify, have rejected it without study.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appeared at her post-summit briefing to be clearly perturbed by elements of Bush's address, though she did not specify the subject of German reunification.

Honecker & Co. put under house arrest

Chief prosecutor resigns: Kohl to visit East

EAST BERLIN, Dec 5, (AP): Former Communist Party chief Erich Honecker and other members of his ousted leadership have been placed under house arrest at their luxury residential compound, the official news agency ADN said today.

Earlier, East Germany's chief prosecutor resigned following mounting criticism that he was incapable of leading an investigation into alleged widespread corruption during Honecker's years in power.

ADN said "all former politburo members who after Oct 19, were no longer members of the politburo and who are still in Wandlitz" were under house arrest. Honecker lost his job in a major power reshuffle on Oct 18.

ADN did not specify the number under house arrest in Wandlitz, the

residential compound north of Berlin that has become a symbol of corruption and abuses of the past.

"The former general secretary (of the Communist Party) and president Erich Honecker is among those who are not allowed to leave their houses in the elegant compound," ADN reported. Wandlitz has 23 houses, once filled with politburo members and their families.

The 77-year-old Honecker has been in ill health following gall-bladder surgery last summer, and had been a virtual recluse in Wandlitz even before the house arrest was announced.

Honecker and his inner circle are under investigation for suspected corruption, while three former politburo members are already in prison pending investigation.

Fugitive official 'in Bonn'

BONN, Dec 5, (AP): The government said yesterday a fugitive East German trade official wanted for shady currency and weapons deals might be in West Germany.

But East Germany has not asked Bonn to look for Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, and even if it did it's unclear whether he could be sent back since the two countries have no extradition treaty, said government spokesman Dieter Vogel.

Schalck-Golodkowski and other East German finance officials were in Bonn last Wednesday, holding talks with West German officials including Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, Rudolf Seiters, Vogel said.

Schalck-Golodkowski is East Germany's chief trade negotiator and a key member of the East German delegation that has been talking with high-ranking West Germans about possible financial assistance for East Germany's crippled economy.

"We don't know where he is now," Vogel said yesterday.

An arrest warrant was issued for him Sunday, after East German authorities discovered a secret warehouse in the town of Kavelstorf, near Rostock, which housed weapons that were being sold to countries in the Middle East, Africa and South America.

According to ADN, Schalck-Golodkowski, who headed East Germany's commercial co-ordination department, part of East Germany's foreign Trade Ministry, was responsible for the operation. The department is responsible for acquiring hard currency through business deals with other nations.

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Superpowers deadlocked over weapons in Mediterranean

VALLETTA, Dec 5, (AP): A US-Soviet dispute over naval disarmament, unveiled by the weekend seaside summit, leaves the Mediterranean the world's most heavily armed waters.

Along with Central America, the rivalry of the two superpower navies, especially in the Mediterranean, surfaced as the most publicly divisive issue to confront US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at their storm-buffed sessions.

Bush ruled out any immediate progress.

"The chairman raised the question of naval arms control and I was not particularly positive in responding," Bush told a concluding joint news conference with Gorbachev. "We still have differences with the Soviet Union. He knows it and I know it."

Defence Secretary Richard Cheney put it even more bluntly. "Naval forces are absolutely crucial to the United States," he said in a Sunday interview on NBC TV's

"Meet the Press."

"We are a major maritime power. Our ability to reinforce our allies in Europe is tied to naval forces, and we're not interested in limitations on those forces," Cheney said.

A setting for fierce battles since the birth of Western civilisation, the Mediterranean since World War II has seen many engagements and confrontations among the 17 bordering nations and outside

powers like the United States and the Soviet Union.

The US 6th Fleet, whose flagship the USS Belknap was Bush's home for the summit, keeps 30 ships, 100 aircraft and 20,000 troops at sea, operating under NATO direction in case of conflict.

Most of the largest recipients of US military aid — Egypt, Israel, Turkey and Greece — border the Mediterranean. The United States keeps bases in four Mediterranean countries.

New airport to be completed mid'90s

Increase in capacity to 50 million passengers

THE second stage of the New Kuwait International Airport Project is envisaged to be completed in the mid 1990's, according to Yacoub Al Saqr, deputy director general of the General Civil Aviation Department.

Speaking to a local daily, the officials said that the new airport building project is

located between the current two runways and will encompass an area ten times the size of the present airport. He added that the project is aimed at increasing the capacity of the airport to nearly 50 million passengers. The capacity of the current airport is estimated to be at the maximum 30 million passengers per year.

As per studies and comprehensive research conducted in this respect, it has been concluded that the current location of the airport is ideal for Kuwait's future airport.

Laying down technical specifications is done by the General Authority for Civil

Aviation co-operation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Planning. Highly specialised consultants have been selected to undertake these job specifications. The design of the new Kuwait International Airport will adopt scientific and security aspects in addition to simplicity, Saqr said.

Agriculture ministry required: Mubarak

HH the Amir's initiative towards afforestation in Kuwait has had a very strong impact on citizens and this is amply demonstrated in citizens house yards and gardens and by their untiring and patriotic spirit in following the desire of HH the Amir to make Kuwait green, a senior agricultural official said.

Speaking to a daily, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al Naser Al Sabah, head of Abdali Agricultural Society, said that Kuwait needs an agricultural ministry to comprehensively shoulder this responsibility.

He added that the country has undertaken major efforts in the development of agriculture particularly concerning landscaping and productive aspects. He indicated that hundreds of trees, particularly palm trees were planted along the sides of streets and at public areas to make Kuwait green and add features of beautification to the country.

He stressed that the agricultural authority is keen to develop agriculture in the country. The authority also undertakes extensive studies in various agricultural aspects and provides field assistance to farmers. It also extends further support in the form of equipment, seed, specialised technical assistance, soft loans and other related forms of assistance.

Wheat experiment

Speaking of Kuwait's wheat experiment during the last season, the official said that it had been successful, despite the harsh weather conditions and other adverse elements. The government exerted all efforts as represented by the works of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries into making this experiment a success.

He went on to state that experiments and research conducted in Kuwait on the quality of Kuwait's wheat proved it could be used for other purposes besides its main purpose of making bread. The official hopes that the authority would in the near future provide farmers with a wheat mill for their personal use.



PAAET training course

A training course on the "autoCAD" operation system was concluded Sunday, Dec 2, 1989 at Dasman Computer Centre. The course organised by the Training, Planning and Co-ordination Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training was attended by a number of trainees from the authority, the National Housing Authority and the Ministry of Defence.

The graduation ceremony attended by, the director of the Information and Computer Centre, Mohammed Al Saleh, and the course scientific co-ordinator, Ahmed Zaki Ismael. Graduation certificates were distributed among graduates.

Remove barriers to technology: scientists

Call to establish Muslim common market

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

MUSLIM scientists have appealed to Islamic state leaders to develop human resources and infrastructural facilities for technological advances to keep up with more advanced nations.

At the conclusion of a seminar on the "New Technologies and the Development of the Muslim World," the Islamic Academy of Sciences called for a "commitment" to become a full partner in the development of new technology.

The declaration came at the end of a three-day conference, co-sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the Islamic Academy of Sciences. It was held under the patronage of HH the Amir.

It also called for the adoption of a "strategy of producing technologies oriented to export markets."

It said it was imperative to remove "barriers that constrain the movement of capital, sci-

tific manpower and technological goods among Muslim countries."

It urged Islamic nations to "bridge the gap between the Muslim world and the advanced countries, which it said was "widening dramatically."

The academy also expressed concern over the minimal resources allocated to research and development of new technologies in the Muslim world. It said one reason for technological backwardness was the "thin spread of resources allocated to research and development, and consequently the absence of the critical mass needed to produce an impact in the development of technologies in the Muslim world."

It said in view of the limited "size of markets in individual Muslim countries," it was necessary to accelerate efforts to strengthen regional co-operation "with the ultimate goal of establishing a Muslim common market."

The academy expressed grave

concern over the "poor level of integration and co-ordination" in the technological fields. It said: "The Muslim world is a still receiver rather than a partner" and there was an urgent need "for collective action to negotiate fair terms" for technology transfer.

The declaration warned that if positive steps were not taken immediately, the Muslim world will "miss another opportunity, risking the potential future of the Muslim ummah. It described the present advances in science and technology as the most "promising than past (such) revolutions."

The academy also urged Islamic states to "support the setting up of effective mechanisms to develop" new technologies, including regional networks and centres, post-graduate programmes and science and technology centres and parks.

Scientists and experts from several Islamic states attended the conference, which was held from Dec 2 to 5.

Mauritanian health minister here

KUWAIT, Dec 5, (Kuna): Mauritanian Minister of Health and Social Affairs Maj. N'diaye Kane arrived here last night on a several-day visit to Kuwait.

In an arrival statement to Kuna, Kane praised Kuwaiti-Mauritanian relations and the support

Kuwait has extended to his government in political, health and social spheres.

The minister expressed pleasure over his visit to Kuwait, which came in response to an invitation by Kuwaiti Planning Minister and acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi.

KAC-Asia joint service

Mishari to visit Singapore, India

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5, (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Chairman and Managing Director Ahmad Al Mishari will leave for Singapore tomorrow to negotiate with the Singapore Airlines authorities on the possibility of establishing an air link between Kuwait and the island republic.

The move is part of Kuwait Airways plans to expand its flight network and operations in the Southeast Asian region announced by him here yesterday.

A special arrangement has been made for me to meet with the Singapore Airlines (SIA) Chairman and Managing Director J.Y. Pillay on Thursday," Mishari told Kuna in an exclusive interview.

He said the meeting is for the purpose of having joint-service co-operation with Asia to boost trade and tourism industry between the two countries.

Mishari said he hoped the negotiations would bring about some positive results, adding, "this is part of Kuwait Airways plans of air link expansion to this

part of the world to cover Singapore, Indonesia and Australia."

Mishari arrived in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur Sunday with a 39 member delegation on the Kuwait Airways inaugural flight to Malaysia.

While here, he witnessed the signing of the Kuwait Airways/Malaysian Airlines (MAS) commercial agreement to boost and develop trade and tourist traffic between the two Muslim nations.

Mishari also officially opened the new branch office of the Kuwait Airways on the fifth floor of Pemas International Building situated in the city proper.

Today he met with the Malaysian Transport Minister Dr Ling Liong Sik to brief the minister on Kuwait Airways operations in Malaysia and of its expansion programme.

"I am happy to say that my meeting with the minister was a fruitful one," he said. Mishari said he told Dr Ling

that the Kuwait Airways decision to have its operation in Malaysia was to fulfill the wishes of HH the Amir and the Kuwait government.

He also assured the minister that with the operations here the Kuwait Airways would be able to bring in more trade, particularly in the tourism industry in Malaysia.

"We hope to bring in more people from Kuwait to visit this country, especially during the visit Malaysia year 1990."

Mishari said he was particularly happy with the assurance given by the minister that the Malaysian government would give every support to the Kuwait Airways to make its operations here more economical and efficient.

From Singapore, Mishari will leave for India on Friday for "mutual talks" with Air India Managing Director Rajan Jethli before leaving for home.

Other members of the Kuwait Airways delegation, however, will leave here for Kuwait tomorrow evening via Bangkok.

Kuwait's 10 major causes of death

THE Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi cited ten major causes of death in Kuwait.

Speaking to a local daily, Awadi said that these included cardiac thrombosis, chronic heart diseases caused by blood disorders, high blood pressure, old-age, arteriosclerosis, pulmonary inflammations, diabetes, blood disorders caused by deficiency in the foetus's weight, high blood pressure related diseases and traffic deaths.

The highest rate of child mortality recorded in the country was in Farwaniya, amounting to 155, followed by the Jahra Health Area at 154 cases, Ahmadi 150, Hawalli 108, Sabah 87 and the Capital Health Area at 64 cases only, the official quoting statistics said.

He added that three cases of cholera were recorded in the country last year, 207 cases of typhoid, 596 salmonella, 163 whooping cough, 70 measles, 453 German measles, 654 mumps, 9 malaria, 39 scarlet fever, 13 leprosy, one case of tetanus and 5 cases of cerebral fever.

GCC unity

KUWAIT, Dec 5, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti newspaper today called for enhancing and strengthening the "the experiment of unity" in the Gulf Co-operation Council states.

The paper pointed to GCC accomplishments but said "what was achieved was still below popular hopes and ambitions."

Nursing faculty has no Kuwaiti teachers

Low salaries keep Arabs away

DEAN of the Allied Medical Sciences and Nursing College at Kuwait University, Dr Fareeda Al Awadi said that the number of students at the college has increased during the past two years due to the high response. She indicated that the Medical Laboratories and Physiotherapy Sections at the college have the highest number of students compared to other sections in the college.

The college is holding constant communications with American and Canadian universities due to the fact that these universities offer identical curricula and nearly follow similar academic systems.

Interviewed by a local daily, she said that the Allied Medical Sciences and Nursing College conducts an in-depth review of all its curricula. This yearly evaluation with the expertise and assistance of international peers is intended to put forward a comprehensive plan for the academic programme implemented at the college.

She added that the college provides its graduates with jobs before graduation. In addition, the college offers continuous education programmes for employers at the Ministry of Public Health on a yearly basis.

She indicated that there are no Kuwaiti teachers at the college and the number of Arab teachers is limited, due to the fact that most allied sciences specialties offered at most Arab and European universities offer only diplomas. The other reason is that some universities were only established recently, the official said. "The college has failed to attract Arab teachers working at allied medical science colleges in the United States or Canada because of the low standard of teachers salaries offered by Kuwait University," Awadi commented.

Salaries

This she said should also be viewed in addition to the competition of other newly established Arab universities in the Gulf which offer higher salaries. She indicated that three Kuwaiti graduates have expressed readiness to join post graduate studies this year. Meanwhile, three other Kuwaiti graduates are still undergoing post graduate education in America. She added that unfortunately, allied medical sciences specialties at Arab countries offer diploma in the field.

The Arab Education Office for Gulf states tried to organise a meeting in order to exchange experiences and proposals among Gulf states universities. Unfortunately, the meeting was postponed twice. Despite these facts, the Allied Medical Sciences and Nursing College, is still making intensive communications on a broad level in Bahrain and other states.

The college will in the future send a group of Kuwaiti students who are in their senior year to overseas universities during the spring holiday to receive special training. During the academic year 87-88, the college graduated a total of 55 students representing 3.19 per cent from the total number of university graduates during the same year.

Regarding the college participation in Continuous Education programmes, Awadi stated that special training courses are organised by the college on yearly basis for employees at the Ministry of Public Health. She indicated that the college offered fifteen symposiums and 102 lectures during the last year. The number of students working at the Ministry of Public Health registered in programmes total 3863.



555

Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN prosperity comes, do not use all of it — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551-479 BC).

Spectres haunt
Nato celebration

New era in relations

BRUSSELS, (Reuter): Two spectres haunt Nato's triumph at the crumbling of hardline communism in Eastern Europe — the prospect of deeper US military cuts and the reunification of Germany.

Fresh from his summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, US President George Bush tackled both sensitive subjects at a meeting of alliance leaders on Monday as they celebrated the start of a new era in East-West relations.

Bush, in one of the clearest signs yet that the alliance is assuming a more political and less military hue, told his colleagues that they must grasp future opportunities — or face the consequences.

"I am prepared to look with an open mind at ways in which we can together achieve even lower levels of conventional and nuclear forces in Europe as part of a negotiated agreement," Bush said.

In other words, the US President has signalled that Nato should be ready to negotiate further on anything from troops to short-range nuclear missiles — despite a pledge that the United States would keep its troops in Europe as long as needed.

Support

Bush told a news conference after briefing Nato leaders on the Malta summit that Gorbachev's support for democratic reforms in East Europe demanded a new US attitude to the Soviet Union.

Western proposals at talks in Vienna on conventional forces in Europe (CFE) already envisage cutting US and Soviet troops to 275,000 each from the Atlantic to the Urals and scrapping much heavy equipment.

Bush's remarks clearly touched a raw nerve with some alliance partners who are worried about the consequences of deeper cuts for Nato strategy and who want to modernise short-range nuclear weapons in Europe, not scrap them.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, widely regarded as the most hawkish of Nato leaders, was clearly surprised and said Bush's speech contained "very serious implications".

"It was so full of meat that we must consider it very carefully before we reply to it," she told a news conference.

Bush seemed fully aware of the impact of his remarks. "There may be some strains in one country or another, viewing the rapidity of change differently than we do," he said.

Troops

Nato has throughout its 40-year history depended on a strong US military presence in Europe, currently some 300,000 troops.

But Bush's remarks, along with recent news of planned cuts in the Pentagon budget, may raise fears that more US withdrawals may be just around the corner.

European governments, already under pressure to cut arms spending as the East-West climate thaws, may also find themselves having to shoulder more of the defence burden.

The question of German reunification is a key problem for Nato since the two German states mark the frontline for both East and West. West Germany's Nato allies gave a cool response to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plan for an East-West German federation leading to eventual unity.

Bush said German unity should not be rushed and the Germans would have to decide their own future on the basis of self-determination.

Kohl acknowledged that his 10-point unity programme, unveiled last week, had drawn a mixed reception.

"Many of the heads of state showed understanding. There were others who were more reserved, but that is nothing new," he told a news conference.

Thatcher made it clear she was one of his less enthusiastic listeners.

Changes

She told the meeting that changes to Europe's post-world war two borders must not be considered until after 10 to 15 years of "genuine democracy" in the Eastern bloc. "That's to make certain it will last," she said.

Kohl said he understood that talk of German unity inevitably raised emotions because of recent history, a reference to the Nazi conquest of Europe in World War Two. But he complained that many non-Germans had criticised his plan without having read it.

"If you analyse it closely, you will find in these 10 points nothing dramatically new but a logical description of a possible policy resulting from our basic values," he said.

But many questions remain for Nato about German reunification, not least whether Moscow will ultimately allow it. Would it then eventually become neutral? How would the creation of a new economic superpower affect the balance of power in Europe?

Bush also warned the allies that more work was needed if they were to achieve the aim of completing three East-West arms treaties next year — on conventional forces in Europe, strategic nuclear missiles and chemical weapons.

"If we in this alliance are not equal to the changes that are going on in Europe around us, the (conventional forces in Europe talks) could be overrun by events," he said. "That could be dangerous and we must avoid it."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1857 — British forces recapture Kanpur in India.
- 1906 — Self-government is granted in Transvaal and Orange.
- 1907 — Frontier between Uganda and East Africa is defined.
- 1917 — Republic of Finland is proclaimed; Collision between Belgian and French ammunition ships at Halifax, Nova Scotia takes 1,600 lives.
- 1921 — Britain signs peace treaty with Ireland under which Irish free state is established and Ireland accepts dominion status.
- 1925 — Libyan frontier agreement is signed between Italy and Egypt.
- 1929 — Women's suffrage begins in Turkey.
- 1938 — France and Germany sign pact on inviolability of their existing frontier.
- 1941 — US President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeals for peace to Japan's Emperor Hirohito — one day before Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.
- 1959 — UN General Assembly says Togoland should receive independence.
- 1961 — Heavy fighting erupts in Congo's Katanga province between United Nations and Katanga forces.
- 1966 — Britain calls for United Nations sanctions against rebellious Rhodesia, including a ban on oil shipments.
- 1971 — South Korea's President Park Chung Hee warns of danger of invasion from the North and declares national emergency.
- 1975 — US President Gerald Ford arrives in Philippines for talks on new terms for US air and naval bases in the islands.
- 1984 — Death toll rises to 1,600 from gas leak from US built pesticide plant in Bhopal, India.
- 1987 — Bangladesh government dissolves Parliament amid opposition campaign to topple President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's administration.



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev

Days as centrist numbered

Gorbachev faces direct challenge

MOSCOW, (UPI): Mikhail Gorbachev came home from a successful superpower summit to face a direct challenge from Andrei Sakharov, Boris Yeltsin and other radical lawmakers over the supremacy of the Soviet Communist Party.

The problems Gorbachev had left behind in the world's largest country hardly subsided while the Soviet President had a historic meeting in Rome with Pope John Paul II and held dockside shipboard talks with President Bush in Malta.

Renewed ethnic violence flared in the transcaucasian republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia, and the beleaguered Soviet space programme suffered another setback when the Kvant-2 module failed to dock with the Mir space station.

But those problems pale compared with the challenge from Sakharov.

The human rights activist — voted the most respected Soviet lawmaker in a recent opinion poll published three years after Gorbachev ended his internal exile — called for a nationwide "warning strike" to force the Congress of People's Deputies to consider removing the constitutional clause legitimizing the party's dominance.

Sakharov, the 1975 Nobel peace laureate, and four other liberal lawmakers asked all Soviet citizens to refuse to work between 10 am and noon Dec 11, the day before the start of the new congress second session.

"If article 6 is not removed from the constitution,

it will lead to a further crisis of trust between the leaders of the state and the party, and the people," said the legislators' appeal. It also demanded that the congress consider key laws on leasing land, private property and workers' rights.

With their appeal, the five lawmakers appeared intent on forcing the Soviet Union to follow in the footsteps of Czechoslovakia and East Germany, its Warsaw Pact allies.

Reformist governments chosen in those two Soviet satellites after popular uprisings recently removed similar constitutional clauses that dictated Communist Party supremacy.

All five lawmakers belong to the inter-regional deputies' group, a progressive organization co-founded by firebrand lawmaker Yeltsin and include more than 300 members. The group, a precursor of the first opposition party in Soviet history, vowed last month to challenge the Communist Party's power at the Congress.

Sakharov's strike call may backfire in the short run by showing that the radical lawmakers do not command national support and that their base is limited to intellectual dissidents in Moscow, Leningrad and other urban centres.

But even if tens of millions of Soviets do not walk off the job next week, the ploy illustrates that Gorbachev's days are numbered as a moderate

holding the centre between the country's conservative and radical forces.

The constitutional clause institutionalizing Communist Party monopoly angers many Soviets, who encouraged by Gorbachev's "glasnost" policy of increased freedom of expression, have demanded its removal at many public rallies.

Gorbachev, who on the eve of his departure for Italy last week wrote an article insisting that the Soviet Union must remain a one-party state, may be forced to reassess that judgment.

The Soviet President faces a growing irony: the political changes in his country, as impressive as they have been, are beginning to lag behind the startling transformations sweeping Eastern Europe, many of which were demanded by people invoking his name.

Gorbachev, the engine of change in the East bloc, cannot afford to become a caboose trailing the train of progress.

The day is fast approaching when he will have to bite the bullet and let the Soviet Communist Party share power, as its sister parties have done or are in the process of doing in Poland, Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

And Sakharov, as he did with Gorbachev's predecessors, is fuelling the pace of events.

Second anniversary of uprising

Any price is worth paying

HEBRON, West Bank, (Reuter): Palestinians may be bloodied and weary from a revolt against Israeli occupation that marks its second anniversary this week, but many say any price is worth paying to end the suffering of the occupation itself.

Since the uprising erupted on Dec 9, 1987, more than 700 Palestinians have paid with their lives, thousands more are in jail and the revolt's underground leaders have called for still more struggle in the third year.

Ibrahim, an activist of the militant Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip's Jabalya Palestinian refugee camp, where the first blows of the uprising were struck, says the very Israeli measures that gave birth to the insurrection will keep it going.

"Israelis often say we are causing our own suffering with our intifada, and of course we are suffering more now. But we have the satisfaction of knowing that we suffer for a future rather than suffer passively like sheep," he said.

"So many who were politically asleep were woken by an Israeli soldier's baton, or the loss of a relative to Israeli bullets. The soldiers are our greatest recruiters, our struggle would be in deep trouble if they ever start behaving nicely," he said.

Talk to almost any of the 1.7 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and they will tell of

frustration and humiliation at the hands of occupation officials fuelling a rage that seethed for twenty years before exploding into bloody revolt.

Mohamed Al Ewaisai could have been a qualified architect today. Instead, he runs a small men's clothing shop in the occupied West Bank of Hebron.

In 1985, halfway through a six-year course in Yugoslavia, he came to spend holidays with his family here. Israeli authorities never let him go back through Jordan, he says.

"I paid my \$150 for an exit permit but at the border they turned me back, they gave no reason," he said.

In two years of mass protest against occupation nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli guns and 150 more have been killed by fellow Arabs as alleged collaborators or moral deviants. More than 40 Jews have died in the uprising.

Arabs in the occupied territories have their differences over the kind of state they would build, given independence, but most agree that any Palestinian regime would be preferable to continued Israeli rule.

"This occupation is a disgusting thing designed to make a man feel like an animal," Abed, a Ramallah taxi driver said.

"To leave my own country I need to beg an Israeli, if I stay away for more than a year I have to beg to come back again," he said.

"How do you think I feel when I have to crawl to a Jew who came here last year from Brooklyn or somewhere to get permission to come and go in the land where I was born."

Israel says such measures are needed, for its own security and to fulfill its obligations to keep the peace in the areas, occupied from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Palestinians say occupation policy often seems aimed at disrupting daily life rather than ensuring tranquility.

"The Israelis have ordered that ambulances from the local government hospital cannot collect patients from home. That means that if you are having a heart attack you have to call a taxi or find a neighbour with a car," a Hebron doctor said.

He said the hospital was given no explanation. The Israeli West Bank administration denied any such order existed.

Curfews, sealed areas and army roadblocks play havoc with the transfer of local patients who need specialist treatment in Ramallah or occupied Jerusalem, he added.

Art Buchwald

Marine reunion to weave war stories

I WENT to a reunion of my Marine Corps Fighter Squadron 113 in Pensacola the other day. All of us had fought valiantly in World War II — that's right, buster, World War II — and there are still a lot more around than most people think.

The guys set up a "ready room" in a suite at the Dunes Hotel, and that's where members of the squadron gathered to weave war stories and swap photos and souvenirs from the past. I grabbed a beer and waited for the lying to begin.

Schmitt was relating his war story when Frank Drury, one of the organizers of the reunion, came in white-faced. "Shellack bought it."

"Where?" someone cried.

"At O'Hare Airport. Delta's computer went down and Shellack was left at the gate in tears."

"Couldn't they have put him on standby?"

"You know Shellack. He would only fly first class with a confirmed seat. He always maintained that standby was for dogs."

"Here's to Shellack," I said, raising my glass. "We'll always remember that Delta was not ready when he was."

Russ Drumm said, "Did I ever tell you about the time a shark stole my skivvies off a clothesline on Eniwetok?"

This sounded interesting, but the phone rang and Grundler answered it. He kept saying, "Oh, no. Oh,

no." Then he hung up and held his head in his hands. "Andy Jones lost all his luggage coming into Kennedy."

John Lincoln threw his glass against the wall. "Why do they always lose the luggage of the good ones?"

"He had a hunch about this," I told them. "We were sitting together in the Denver terminal one day and he said, 'Last night I dreamt that my bags on TWA never made it to Boston. In case anything happens to me, I want you to see that my wife gets these claim checks.'"

We didn't seem to be making much progress with our war tales. I had one ready but before I could begin, John Zoellner staggered into the ready room. His suit was rumpled, his shirttail hung out and his cheeks were twitching.

He went straight to the bar, grabbed a bottle of cognac and began to drink.

"What happened?" someone asked.

"Tri-Continental had a flat tire. We sat on the runway for four hours, and then the gate attendant discovered that the flight was overbooked. They made us slide down the chute and find our way back to the terminal in the dead of night."

Green said, "That happened to me once when I was travelling business class on Eastern. They

announced that any passenger giving up his seat would get stock in the company. Everybody who got off went broke."

Zoellner took another swig. "I'm never going to fly again."

Drury grabbed him by his lapels. "No one chickens out at a Marine reunion. You're going on the next US Air flight to Atlanta if I have to strap you to the 'No Smoking' sign myself."

The conversation turned serious. Kimak spoke up. "Question: Does anyone know why we fought the Japanese in World War II?"

Bill Murray replied, "Everyone knows that. It was to keep them from flooding the United States with Toyota."

Just then we heard the roar of engines and we rushed out onto the balcony. There was a squadron of commuter planes coming in from Tampa at sunset. Drury was looking through his binoculars and counting them. "One — two — three — four — five — my God, Chuck Woodbury's plane is missing. Call the tower."

Dufford called the tower. "What happened to 814?"

The controller told him, "Chuck blanked out after he ate the airline food over Biloxi."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Misunderstanding

SIR: I refer to the letter "Masjid and temple," (AT, Nov 26) by Liz Thomas.

Thomas says she cannot understand why anyone should have any objection to building a temple near the Babri Masjid. Muslims in India have never raised their voices against building a temple, as it is a place of worship. Muslims object because that particular place was chosen to build Ram Mandir. The only reason to choose that place was to create communal tension and to disturb the peaceful lives of minorities.

The aim of WHO (World Hindu Organisation) is to demolish the 16th century mosque in spite of protection by the Muslims. Thomas also states that the site of Babri Masjid was once a Hindu temple. There is no such evidence ever found in history and for your reference I quote the words of well known Indian historian Pandit Bishan B. Dayal Pandey. "Babri Masjid is not actually the birth place of Rama neither there was any temple. This is forceable conversion. The historian's evidences never indicate that the Masjid had ever been a temple and neither it was destroyed by any emperor."

To those who say it was Rama birth place, I quote the words of Prof. R.S. Sharma (professor at Delhi & Patna Universities). "If one worked on the basis of Puranic chronology, then Rama would be placed between 2500-2000 BC. But archaeological researchers show that Ayodhya did not have any habitation or population on any considerable scale before 6th century BC for the simple reason that the Middle Gangetic Plain, eastern UP and Bihar, was full of jungles and the use of iron did not become common till the 5th and 6th century BC and without iron it was not possible to clear the jungles and settlements. So if the present Ayodhya is considered to be the capital of Rama there is grave doubt whether he was really born there and made the place his habitat."

I hope the above quotation is a clear cut evidence to correct anyone's misunderstanding.

Khan Akhtar
Bayan

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing. No responsibility is accepted for return of letters not published.

Liberalism
call ignored

ALGIERS, Algeria, (AP): Algeria's National Liberation Front has ignored calls to liberalize its internal workings, despite efforts by President Chadli Bendjedid to reform the party, that has ruled with barely a break for three decades.

The party re-elected its Central Committee numerous hard-liners known through the 1960s and 1970s for their unwavering support for the socialist regime of the late President Houari Boumedienne.

Though Bendjedid has called for seats in the Central Committee to be filled by secret ballot, hardliners presented the 5,000 delegates a list of candidates for a Central Committee twice as big as in the past and had it approved by acclamation. The effect was to elect a number of reform-minded candidates backed by Bendjedid, but also to put back on the Central Committee a number of highly conservative members.

Among those taking up a new central role in the party were Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister from 1964 to 1979, and Mohammed Salah Yahiaoui, a former governor of the military academy at Cherchell, who was Col Moammer Khaddafi's favourite in the 1979 presidential elections which followed the death of Boumedienne.

Many of the hardliners are dedicated socialists, opposed to any new vestiges of capitalism in Algeria's predominantly socialist economy. Some of the more reform-minded party members who might have supplanted the hardliners in a secret ballot are more Western-oriented and seek to open Algeria more to the outside world.

Bendjedid, who was re-elected to a third five-year term as president a year ago, has worked for reform since nationwide rioting last year over economic issues. He has tried to breathe new life into the party.

In February, he held a nationwide referendum in which 85 per cent of the public voted to permit opposition parties that could challenge the FLN supremacy in future elections. Twelve opposition parties have since been created, and national assembly elections are set for early next year.

Quote me

"I've just got to keep doing the same thing. I've got to keep getting after it, to keep pushing it to the limit. I now have two good GS under my belt. But I know there's still room for improvement. I don't want to focus on a win. I want to focus on my skills." — American Diann Roffe after her second successive run-up in the World Cup ski slalom.

"It was probably the hardest shot I've hit. If John had been in the middle of the court there would have been a hole in him." — Boris Becker on a vicious backhand he ripped in the match against John McEnroe.

"I gave it everything I had, I wanted to win the match. He's the last guy you want to get down against — he might miss a period of his hockey game. Now I have to play Becker at 12:30 tomorrow. It's like the firing squad." — John McEnroe after losing to Ivan Lendl in the Masters tournament.

"I was very, very keen in the first couple of games and from then I rolled on. I wouldn't call tonight a big match, but it was a small match either. Since the Masters of last year better. Hopefully it doesn't stop for a couple of years." — West German Boris Becker after beating Sweden's Stefan Edberg.

"My friends, such as they are, would be happy to know I came 10,000 miles to make a speech of only two to three minutes. It is a privilege to be part of this tribute to a truly great person." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu at a ceremony honouring Harry Belafonte.

Troops kill 5 infiltrators from Egypt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 5, (AP): Israeli troops shot and killed five fighters armed with 51 hand grenades and Kalashnikov assault rifles who infiltrated into Israel from Egypt to stage a "spectacular" attack, the military command announced today.

It said the clash occurred in the early morning hours after the commandos crossed the border from Egypt's Sinai peninsula into the western part of Israel's southern Negev desert.

An Israeli force encountered the guerrillas after a chase and killed them all without suffering any casualties, the army said.

said.

It was not clear to which organisation the fighters belonged. They carried five Soviet-designed Kalashnikov assault rifles, 51 hand grenades, a pistol with magazines, binoculars and wire cutters, the army said.

The fighters were on their way to a "spectacular attack" in Israel, the army said without elaboration.

Head of the army's southern command Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai told Israel army radio the attack was apparently linked to the upcoming second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

"We can assume there is a link between these things... there is no doubt that organisations which we confront would try to carry out such an attack. Our alertness and our activity were also caused by this factor," Vilnai said.

Vilnai declined to provide details of the clash, saying only that "all the infiltrators have been killed... the forces acted well, exactly as we expected them to."

He said the fighters' equipment "shows they simply meant to kill. Not to argue too much, not to carry out a hostage-taking operation but a killing operation," Vilnai said.

"They carried no documents, and as a result we cannot know to what group they belonged," he said.

Vilnai noted that Israel's border with Egypt was usually quiet and said it was Israel's only "peaceful border, and that's how we treat it. However, we have to take into account that such an event took place."

Israel and Egypt signed a US-mediated peace treaty in 1979 and have full diplomatic relations. Egypt is the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel.

UN recognises PLO's right to have a state

General Assembly adopts resolutions criticising Israel

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 5, (Reuters): As delegates huddled on a controversial resolution upgrading the UN status of the PLO, the General Assembly yesterday adopted three other resolutions criticising Israel.

They included one that recognises the PLO's right to establish an independent state.

This resolution, passed by 109 to 18 with 31 abstentions, also called on all states to put an end to military and economic aid to Israel and

asked for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In voting against the resolution, US ambassador Thomas Pickering said Washington supported a "properly structured international conference" which could facilitate direct negotiations between the parties.

However, he said the United States did not support a conference that would have power to impose a settlement on parties.

Zayed's peace call

Trouble-free GCC

ABU DHABI, Dec 5, (Kuna): President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan last night called for peace in the Gulf, the Middle East and Lebanon and said he would continue efforts towards that end.

Sheikh Zayed, speaking to reporters on the occasion of the UAE National Day, also said there were no problems among the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

"We have used our good offices and are still prepared to extend all assistance and support to achieve peace and stability between Iraq and Iran," he said.

He said the eight-year-old war between Iraq and Iran, halted under a UN-brokered ceasefire in August last year, had inflicted great losses on both countries.

"We never hoped a war would occur between two Muslim neighbours where there will be a victorious and a defeated," he told reporters from the UAE, Arab and other states, of which he is president.

"We always hope they have fraternal and cordial links that will benefit them both."

Sheikh Zayed said he hoped peace talks between the two parties would result in a treaty that will bring about peace and security.

Sheikh Zayed reiterated support for Palestinians but regretted their divisions.

"We are with them with our hearts and minds and our support for the PLO and the intifada (Palestinian uprising) will continue at a larger scale. This is a firm and principled stand," he said.

"But it is regrettable that the Palestinian people are divided into parties and organisations. They should be one party and have one position."

Asked about Lebanon, Sheikh Zayed, who was the first Arab leader to call for an Arab summit on that country, said all Arabs wanted peace in

Lebanon.

"From our side, we have exerted efforts for Lebanon and Palestine and will continue to do so."

Sheikh Zayed attacked the United States for its support to Israel, whom he blamed for failure of peace efforts in the Middle East.

"The more our Palestinian brothers display understanding (for peace), the more Israel becomes intransigent and put obstacles for peace and co-existence," he said.

"Israel cannot not be intransigent without American support. Israel's dependence on America makes it intransigent."

Replying to a question, Sheikh Zayed criticised calls for Arab unity, which he said should be preceded by co-operation among the Arab League members.

"Such calls are mere allegations from which Arabs reaped nothing. We now have three Arab groupings representing three opinions instead of one," he said.

Sheikh Zayed, whose country saw the birth of the GCC in 1981, said there were no problems among the council's members.

"I have not heard about problems between us. What I know is that we are brothers, among whom there are no problems, obstacles or differences," he said.

He also dismissed claims about differences in the UAE federation.

Sheikh Zayed called for modifying the Arab League charter and adopting a majority basis in decision-making.

Asked whether the GCC summit in Muscat this month would discuss a US proposal for oil lease from the Gulf, he said: "We don't know the US intentions behind storing Arab oil and increasing its imports."

Soviet Israeli ties tied to peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 5, (AP): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said at the Malta summit he would renew diplomatic ties with Israel once there was progress in Middle East peace efforts, an aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today.

Gorbachev's comment came in response to a request from US President George Bush for the Soviets to restore relations they ruptured with the Jewish state during the 1967 Middle East war.

Shamir had asked Bush to raise the subject during a brief telephone conversation with the American President on the eve of the Dec 2-3 superpower meetings in Malta.

At the summit, Bush told Gorbachev that renewing relations with Israel would be "a positive contribution," said an American official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gorbachev's reply, according to Shamir's aide was "in effect, that when the (peace) process starts to advance, then they will renew ties."

Shamir's aide spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity after Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly briefed the premier about the Malta talks for 30 minutes at Shamir's office.

Kelly indicated after meeting Shamir that the summit had not advanced Middle East peace moves which are deadlocked over Israel's diplomatic boycott of the PLO.

Later today, Kelly said, he would fly to Cairo to discuss a proposal by US Secretary of State James Baker to hold preliminary Israeli-Palestinian talks in the Egyptian capital as a way of circumventing the impasse.

"We still lack a definitive Egyptian response," Kelly said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he did not think Moscow and Washington would use their deepening relationship to put pressure on Israel over a Middle East peace settlement.

He was speaking to reporters after receiving a briefing from Kelly on the US-Soviet summit talks.

Asked whether the superpower rapprochement worried him, the hardline prime minister said: "I know there are people here yearning for some sort of pressure. I am not one of them and I don't believe there will be pressure."

Bush and Gorbachev told a joint conference at the end of the summit they were in broad agreement on the Middle East, a marked departure from previous stands on the issue.

US experts and Palestinians said such an agreement might eventually force Israel to cede occupied land for a peace settlement, a possibility firmly rejected by Shamir.

Kelly told reporters that Washington was trying to use its influence to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I cannot speak for the Soviets, but certainly the general disposition of the Soviet government is far different these days than what it was 10 years ago," he said.

Israeli officials said Kelly told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens that Bush and Gorbachev agreed that Arabs and Israelis should work to resolve the conflict by themselves.

Palestinians in the occupied territories hailed the US-Soviet rapprochement and said it would weaken Israel's stance.



Rabin said Israel had largely succeeded in reducing the level of violence in the occupied territories and warned Palestinians that if they took up arms "with terror, we know to cope." (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO or Hamas Israel's dilemma

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 5, (Reuters): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the PLO is playing into the hands of Muslim fundamentalists by barring Palestinians from accepting Israel's offer of elections in the occupied territories.

He urged Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to decide who would determine their fate—the Palestine Liberation Organisation or the increasingly popular Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas.

"The prolongation of waiting for the beginning of the process will play only into the hands of the Islamic fundamentalist groups," Rabin said yesterday, blaming the PLO for holding up peace negotiations.

"What we need more than anything is that the groups that reside in the territories and their leadership will decide the course of events for the future — will it be the pro-PLO or the Hamas," Rabin said in an interview with Reuters.

The PLO, in what seems to be its final response to a US

proposal for peace talks in Cairo, sent a memorandum to Washington on Friday saying that no Palestinian delegation would negotiate with Israel unless it was chosen by the PLO.

Israel accepted the US formula for Palestinian-Israeli talks based on the condition that the PLO was barred from the meeting and had no say in appointing the Palestinian delegation.

US Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly today briefed Israeli leaders on the latest US Middle East peace efforts and the outcome of the Malta super-power summit.

President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker phoned Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday about the summit, Arens' spokesman said.

Israeli military authorities, assessing the Palestinian uprising before its second anniversary this Saturday, said that Hamas was gaining power despite the arrest of hundreds of activists and its crippled leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Israeli jets bomb Abu Nidal base

SIDON, Dec 5, (AP): Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian targets near this southern port city today, wounding seven people, police said.

A police spokesman said the raid targeted bases manned by fighters loyal to terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal and the Syrian-backed Palestine Liberation Front on the edge of Majdalioun valley, a few kilometres (miles) east of Sidon.

A Palestinian clinic staffed by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine was also hit in the raid, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said most of the casualties were Palestinian civilians seeking medical treatment at the clinic when the Israeli warplanes struck.

The clinic and the base are on the northern edge of the narrow valley, the rest of which is fully controlled by Abu Nidal's group.

The spokesman said four jet fighters carried out the surprise strike at 11.45 am (0945 GMT). "It was a swift attack. It only lasted a few minutes," the spokesman said.

Palestinian defenders "hardly managed to open fire from anti-aircraft guns. No hits were observed," he added.

The police spokesman said Abu Nidal's fighters immediately blocked all approaches to the valley as their jeeps and ambulances evacuated casualties to hospitals in Sidon.

Smoke billowed from the valley, which houses several revolutionary command bases. Abu Nidal's fighters fired rifles in the air to make way for their ambulances.

Israeli President Haim Herzog (left) talks to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez after their meeting at the Moncloa palace in Madrid (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Seven hanged

NICOSIA, Dec 5, (Reuters): Iran hanged six Afghans and an Iranian in public today for sexually assaulting children in the eastern city of Zahedan, the national news agency Irna reported.

Hashish seized

ABU DHABI, Dec 5, (Reuters): The Gulf emirate of Sharjah has seized 500 kg of hashish with a street value of four million dirhams (\$1.1 million), police sources said today.

PLO, Spain agree

MADRID, Dec 5, (AP): The Spanish military intelligence service and the PLO have kept an anti-terrorism co-operation agreement for three years, a Madrid newspaper reported.

Ceausescu to visit Iran

MANAMA, Dec 5, (UPI): Romania's hard-line Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu will pay an official visit to Iran later this month at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's official Islamic republic news agency reported today, in a move that would bring together two mavericks on the world stage.

Cypriot talks

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 5, (Reuters): Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders have expressed willingness to revive talks on reunifying the partitioned island but the United Nations has deliberately not set a date for them.

Yemen unity

KUWAIT, Dec 5, (Reuters): North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will pay a two-day visit to Jordan this week to discuss his plans to merge with South Yemen, a Kuwaiti newspaper said today.

Opposition call

NICOSIA, Dec 5, (AP): The leader of the main Iranian opposition group Masoud Rajavi has urged residents of the Islamic republic to come forward to tell a United Nations envoy about human rights abuses.

Ban on heavy nets

ABU DHABI, Dec 5, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates will stop fishing boats using heavy nets that drag the seabed, a government official said today.

"We have decided to ban heavy nets because they are destroying sea creatures and hindering development of our fishing resource," an official at the agriculture and fisheries ministry said.

House collapses

ANKARA, Dec 5, (Reuters): Five people from the same family died today when their mud-brick house collapsed after heavy snow near the eastern city of Erzurum, 880 km (550 miles) east of Ankara, Anatolian news agency said.

Nurse detained

LONDON, Dec 5, (Kuna): The British charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), said today that it has just received news of the detention of a young Palestinian nurse in Gaza, Abed Al Ajrami.

Bashir in Oman

MUSCAT, Dec 5, (AP): Lt. Gen. Omar Al Bashir, leader of Sudan's military junta, arrived today on a two-day visit in a continuing effort to foster Khartoum's relations with the Arab world.

He was given an official reception by Sultan Qaboos and was scheduled to start official talks with him later in the day.



Israeli President Haim Herzog (left) talks to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez after their meeting at the Moncloa palace in Madrid (Reuters wirephoto)

Syria won't trouble, hopes Israel

TEL AVIV, Dec 5, (Reuters): Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday he did not believe Syria would violate Israel's security interests in Lebanon.

Speaking after Syria sent troops reinforcements into Beirut amid efforts to dislodge Christian army chief General Michel Aoun, Rabin declared:

"We don't pretend to be any more the policeman of Lebanon... Israel has to cope with one issue — its security interests, which are limited and are known to the Syrians. I believe they are not going to violate our basic security interests," he said in an interview with Reuters.

The defence minister said Israel had redefined its goals in Lebanon when it withdrew 15,000 troops in 1985, leaving only a narrow buffer zone policed jointly with a Lebanese militia.

Sudan students protest at killing of colleague

KHARTOUM, Dec 5, (Reuters): About 100 students staged a march in Khartoum today in protest at the killing of a colleague during a political argument.

Students at Khartoum University said Bashir Al Tayeb, who belonged to a secular group at the university, was knifed to death yesterday by an Islamic fundamentalist student.

The opposition has accused the military junta which has ruled Sudan since a coup in June of leaning towards Muslim fundamentalism.

Meanwhile, four doctors who allegedly led a strike last week appeared before a military tribunal yesterday to face charges that could carry death sentence.

The strike, the first since the ruling military junta took power after a June 30 coup, is still on. The government has blamed it on communist elements.

The four physicians are charged with illegal gathering, instigating of sedition and war against the state, the state-run Sudan News Agency (Suna) said the last two are punishable by death.

The defendants include Mamoun Ahmed Hussein, a member of the dissolved physicians' union; Syed Mohamed Abdallah, a member of the dissolved Socialist Sudanese Baath Party; Gaafar Mohamed Salih, a member of the dissolved Communist Party, and Angog Gordon from southern Sudan.

Kelly in Cairo

US Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly (left) meets Egyptian President Mubarak at the Presidential Palace in Cairo. Kelly came to Egypt to brief Mubarak on the US-Soviet talks last week in Malta (Reuters wirephoto)

Civil war board game help Lebanese laugh out tragedy

BEIRUT, Dec 5, (Reuters): Lebanese families, at the mercy for years of feuding militia barons, can now get their own back — using dice and playing cards instead of rifles and rocket launchers.

"Civil war," a new board game for all the family, gives players a chance to join in the struggle for their country. And inventor Nagi Tuani guarantees the most unscrupulous will win.

"It's a Lebanese form of monopoly," he said. "I hope people will laugh out their tragedy."

The instructions say the rules of civil war have nothing to do with international conventions, military codes of conduct or human rights.

"Racketeering, taking hostages, misappropriation of public funds, terrorism blind shelling, blockades, seizure of ports, corrupt practices, etc, all these are an integral part of the civil war," they say.

"In civil wartime, you make a point of reselling (at full price) products sent as international assistance to the underprivileged. You are allowed to shell city centres at rush hours. You can also starve a whole country and provoke factitious shortages, in order to make considerable profits."

"In fact, the rules of civil war are nothing but the absence of any rule..."

Tuani sets his game in the nation of Mabil, saying Lebanon's 15-year experience also applies to Third World conflicts.

He describes Mabil as a country dismembered by militias which became "a mixture of savage and unscrupulous mini-dictatorships."

Departing somewhat from the Lebanese experience, Tuani says the state of Mabil survives thanks to a small but united army and to its finances, represented by the Mabilian pound.

The aim of the game is to collect more "military units" than the national army. Players throw dice to move around the board, divided into squares marked income, events and battles.

Income squares include ports, spirits and tobacco, casinos, banks, restaurants, electricity and water and hostages — the most lucrative. A total of 100 events cards can either boost or slash player's earnings.

"The authorities decide to destroy the stock of adulterated whisky you have imported. This cost you 80 Mabilian pounds," reads one.

Arabic text: "الجمهورية اللبنانية"

Troubles over overseas marriages temper rush

NEW DELHI: Paramjeet Singh wanted only happiness when she and her husband agreed to their daughter's quick marriage.

Married within 15 days of being introduced to an Indian living in Canada, the Singhs' daughter soon became pregnant. Six months later, after obtaining a visa, she followed her husband to Canada.

Immediately, the marriage began to sour. The husband, whom the Singhs thought was an engineer, worked as a machinist in a factory. His well-to-do family opposed the new wife's efforts to find a job, and after constant harassment, she was ordered out of the family home, along with her two-year-old daughter.

Reluctant to end the marriage, the Singhs' daughter is now attempting an uneasy reconciliation with her husband.

"My daughter was so keen to go abroad because we have

relatives who are doing well there. At her marriage, I've never seen her so happy," says Mrs Singh (not her real name). "But now I feel it's not for the best. When I look back, I think we should have waited and investigated more."

In India, a new wariness is tempering the rush for long-distance, arranged marriages. For years, many parents here dreamed of marrying their daughter to an established, affluent Indian overseas. Dazzled by prospects for a lifestyle unattainable in India, daughters were sent to the United States, Britain, and other countries. Often, they barely knew their new husbands.

While there are many marital success stories, counsellors and social observers say that overseas arranged marriages face tremendous troubles and strains. Indian brides, many of whom have never been away from home, are thrust into a new culture and

caught in their husbands' conflicting desires that they adapt to Western ways but also remain traditional.

"Many Indians still look on America as greener pastures. They think that if you have two cars, everything is OK," says Anju Chatterjee, co-ordinator of Sanjivini counselling centre in New Delhi. "Indians don't realise it's a struggle in America. It's a totally alien culture and very stressful for Indians."

According to American immigration officials, many of the 700,000 Indians in the US are part of a well-educated, accomplished, and affluent community. Indian immigration has jumped from 3,000 in the 1950s, to more than 200,000 in the 1980s.

Yet despite their economic success, many Indians see acute cultural differences between India and the West, and fear the loss of their culture and values. Often they live and socialise in

Ego problem for Indian women in US though arranged marriages on the wane

BOSTON: Nalini Luthra recently married and left India to join her husband in the United States, where he had been working for the past 10 years. The marriage was not arranged; they were introduced by the groom's cousin, who thought they had a lot in common.

"Our parents really did not have a say in the decision," says Ms Luthra, a student at Emerson College.

But as an Indian, she says, her family's approval was important. "I wouldn't

choose a person just because my family liked him... but he has to fit into the family," she says. Luthra echoes the feelings of most Indians that their cultural values must be preserved.

Of the Indian men who bring their wife to America (arranged marriage or not), expectations differ, she finds. "Some would want them to dress in the Indian fashion and act as a traditional Indian woman. There are women who don't mind doing that," she says. Some want to

have their wife at home and "under no circumstances is she to work... It's an ego problem," Luthra says. "Indian culture says that the male is a stronger person..."

But, for Luthra and her husband, "traditions are not the way we interact with each other. Traditions are our values, religious beliefs, holidays," she says, adding that those are the things they want for their children.

"I want to be comfortable (in

America), but I don't want to stand out in a crowd," she says. "My husband agreed with that."

Luthra speculates that arranged Indian marriages are on the wane. In previous generations, "women did not have the chance to go into higher education — they couldn't meet anyone," says Luthra. "Now if you work, go to school, there are more opportunities to meet people of your own, and a lot of parents respect their children's judgment."

The Christian Science Monitor

introverted cultural pockets. When it comes to marriage, many seek a spouse from India to preserve their Indian lifestyles. Some parents living in America send their adolescent daughters back to India to be married. Other return with their teenage children because they fear they will marry foreigners, says Ms Chatterjee.

That ideal often is clouded by the tensions that arise in making these "green card" marriages work, say counsellors and other observers. A "green card" (the colour has been changed to pink) gives a foreign national the right to live and work in the US.

The wife must face a long wait for a visa. At the American Embassy in New Delhi, visa

applications for about 6,000 Indian spouses are pending. More than 3,000 Indian spouses go to the US every year, waiting an average of two years for their visas.

A New Delhi woman's sister married and followed her new husband to England after a long waiting period for a visa, only to find that he had remarried in the

meantime. "The woman is expected to be the good little Indian wife. But if there is trouble, she has no one to turn to for help."

Counsellors and sociologists say marital difficulties often are rooted in the Indian man's outdated expectations. Living in the West for a number of years, men

may fail to recognise the changes underway in large Indian cities. "Very often, men tend to think that India is still where it was when they left," says Ms. Chatterjee, the counsellor.

Observers in the US say the incidence of divorce among Indian couples is rising.

The Christian Science Monitor

TNA attacks police stations

395 Sinhalese surrender.

COLOMBO, Dec 5 (Agencies): About 300 Indian-trained militants assaulted police stations in eastern Batticaloa city today, hitting the facilities with mortars and gunfire and drawing retaliatory attacks from besieged officers, officials and residents said.

There were no immediate reports of any casualties in the ongoing combat between government personnel and the Tamil National Army (TNA), a force trained and armed by New Delhi to replace its troops as they gradually withdraw from the island's northeast.

Colombo deems the militia illegal, and at least 200 people have died in combat during the past month between the adversaries contesting the power vacuum left by the departing Indians, who were deployed to implement a plan aimed at ending a rebellion by the mostly Hindu Tamil minority.

Greening of India

Concern over environ

HARSUD, India, Dec 5. (Panos): Is India's environment movement about to take off? It could be judging from a rally recently to protest against government policies which protesters say blight the environment and disregard the rights and livelihoods of the people affected by them.

In the capital, New Delhi, many watch the birth of the fledgling "green" movement with wary interest. But the capital still speculates whether this new power will succeed in countering the claims that large infrastructure projects are vital to economic development... and adequately address environmental ills.

The rally was held at Harsud, a town of 18,000 people in Madhya Pradesh, which is to be submerged by the Narmada Sagar dam in 1993.

Some 25,000 people, including others displaced or threatened by two other large dams — Subarna, Rekha and Tehri — as well as by the missile testing range at Balipal and the Kaiga nuclear power project, linked hands and formed a "protective chain" around Harsud.

The symbolic chain demonstrated people's new determination to save not only Harsud but all local human settlements and nature reserves. They made an impassioned plea for a humane development process which would preserve the culture of the people.

Centre stage was given to committed individuals such as Baba Amte, the social worker and Magsaysay Award winner; Dr Shivram Karanth, a well-known

writer actively aiding environmentalists in their campaign to save the Karnataka forests being felled for the pulpwood industry; Sunderlal Bahuguna of Chipko fame; and Shabana Azmi, the film star and civil rights activist.

Tribal leaders from all corners of India were also able to report on their struggles. The tribal people, who bear the brunt of many development projects, brought with them packets of mud from different parts of the country and erected a symbolic tower to dramatise their united bid to stop large destructive projects.

The people of Harsud town, as well as the 254 surrounding villages which are also to be submerged by the dam, have decided to boycott the general election. Haider Patel and Hakum Chand of the Harsud Narmada Sagar Struggle Committee are members of the ruling Congress (I) party but they are not deterred from criticising its policies.

Apart from the villages, Har-

sud is the only large town which will be drowned. For the last 40 years the inhabitants have been hearing about the dam but they never really expected to be displaced.

Local businessmen claim that the town has a business turnover of Rs 300 million (about US\$2 million) a year. The local administration has scoffed at the figure but has not provided its own estimate. M.N. Sand, a businessman, claims that 5 million kilograms of cotton, 3.5 million kilograms of pulses, 2.5 million of soya beans and 1 million kilograms of groundnuts are sold in Harsud's wholesale market.

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Indian cabinet sworn in

Chandrashekar boycotts ceremony

(Continued from Page 1)

Minister R.K. Hegde has been appointed deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, a post in the rank of the cabinet minister.

Singh, who himself once served Rajiv as defence and finance minister, is the leader of the Janata Dal, the largest of the five parties comprising the National Front.

Twelve of the ministers announced today are members

of the Janata Dal. One minister represents each of the coalition's other four parties — the Congress (Socialist) Party and three regional parties, the Telegu Desam from Andhra Pradesh state, Asom Gana Parishad from Assam state and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam from Tamil Nadu state.

Singh's state is India's first minority government. No single party won a majority of the 525 parliament seats decided in the

Nov 22-26 election.

The Congress Party remained the single largest party with 193 seats but did not seek the coalition partners needed for a parliamentary majority.

Singh, 58, took office after the National Front was assured support from two extremes of the political spectrum — the right-wing Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party and a communist alliance.

The National Front won 144

parliamentary seats. The Bharatiya Janata, which captured 88 seats, and the Communist alliance, which won 51, said they will support Singh but will not join the government.

Singh, like all six previous prime ministers, is a Hindu but has sworn to preserve India's secular form of government.

Feuding within the National Front surfaced anew today as the first members of Singh's cabinet were sworn in.

Despite Singh's attempts to patch up differences, Chandrashekar, his main rival in the Janata Dal Party, boycotted the swearing in ceremony and Yashwanth Sinha, an ally of Chandrashekar, failed to appear when called to take the oath of office for a junior minister's post during the televised ceremony.

Speaking after the ceremony at the British-built presidential palace, Singh said the appointments were only a "first phase" and he would be naming additional ministers.

He also declined to reveal the portfolios of the new cabinet officers and parried questions by asserting that all 17 would be at work tomorrow.

"Tomorrow morning, everybody will be in their offices," said the 58-year-old Indian leader, who took power on Saturday as head of a minority government formed by his Janata Dal Party and its four partners in the centrist National Front coalition.

It was believed, however, that Singh was avoiding as long as possible a public commitment to the selections in an attempt to lure Chandrashekar into the cabinet.

In coalition meetings after the elections, Chandrashekar worked to deny Singh the prime ministership, first promoting himself and then Devi Lal.

But he was thwarted by a back-room deal in which Lal on Friday declared he supported Singh, who was then unanimously chosen the prime ministerial candidate by National Front lawmakers.

Singh on Saturday named Lal Deputy Prime Minister. Lal said he would work to bring Chandrashekar into the cabinet.

India's two communist parties and the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) agreed to use their combined 132 seats to give the Front support to prove its strength on the floor.

A senior Janata Dal official acknowledged that Sinha had rejected the appointment and said that "it could be because his mentor, Chandrashekar, is not happy with Singh or he is not happy with the junior position."

Seven of the new ministers have served in previous governments, including Arun Nehru, Arif Mohammad Khan and Mufti Mohammad Syed, who with Singh held posts in Rajiv's administration and either resigned or were expelled from the Congress (I) Party.

Nehru, a former businessman respected for his political acumen, is Rajiv's cousin and played a leading role in engineering the Congress (I) Party's defeat.



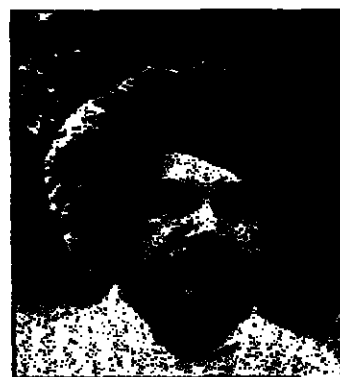
Nehru



Maneka



Arif Khan



Yadav



Ajit Singh



Unnikrishnan



Fernandes



Hegde

Garment factories bonanza

Workers vulnerable to exploitation

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Dec 5. (Panos): Renu and Razia are not ordinary girls. Aged 10 and 12, the sisters are envied by neighbours in their Babupura slum in Dhaka. Every month they each bring home taka 300 (about \$10), wages earned as "helpers" in a garment factory two kilometres from home.

Their father, Azar Ali, migrated from south of Dhaka to the capital in 1986. Initially, life was hard but his wife made a little money grinding spices for a student's hostel nearby for which she got a few takas and a meal which she brought home to share with the family.

Azar Ali learned to drive a rickshaw, but man and wife still earned barely enough to feed a family of six and pay taka 350 (\$11.60) monthly rent for the one-room shanty they call home.

Then a student leader at the hostel got jobs for the sisters in his uncle's factory. Renu and Razia work six days a week, from 8am to 4pm, with a half-hour break for lunch. But they cannot afford to bring food with them. They eat before starting for the factory and have to wait until evening for their next meal.

If the manager pleases, they have Fridays off. Overtime pays taka 1.50 an hour (0.05 US cents) and the girls are happy to have extra work. It is a bonanza for

them. The sheer economic desperation of workers like Renu and Razia makes them vulnerable to exploitation. They are unaware of their rights, and have no bargaining power as the alternatives they face are starvation, begging or selling themselves.

Today, nearly 300,000 workers have garment factory jobs. Over 80 per cent of them are young women and children like Renu and Razia.

The clothing business took off in 1980 when a Bangladeshi company, with 500 workers, went into a joint enterprise with a South Korean firm. The Koreans offered training facilities and sewing machines to set up a factory wholly devoted to exports.

By 1987, sales had risen to 2.3 million shirts valued at \$5.3 million. Garment factories mushroomed. Garments from Bangladesh's 700 factories have overtaken jute products as the country's biggest export.

This has been a boon for poor urban women. From the start, young unmarried girls were preferred because they were less trouble as industrial labour. Housemaids began deserting their "begum sahibs" (mistresses) for better pay and freedom from the drudgery of domestic chores.

Wages for domestic work are poor, rarely exceeding \$6 to \$8 a month. Still, for some housemaids, the additional benefits of food, board and clothes compensate for the poor wages, even if little leisure-time is accorded.

For many, however, factory life seems paradise compared with sweeping and mopping floors, dressing poultry, cleaning fish and preparing vegetables, washing and generally being at the beck and call of all the members of the family of their middle-class employers. But some have discovered that factory life also has its drawbacks.

Molina, a pretty 19-year-old maid who served Mrs Abdullah for over eight years, abandoned the security of her mistress' home to join the wide world of garment workers. She got a job easily since she knew how to sew and iron. But it was not long before her regrets began.

Her monthly income is taka 600 (about \$20) but this does not cover food and board and Molina has to share a room with a fellow-worker's family. The job, she soon discovered, was tedious and the manager often keeps workers back long after dusk to catch a shipment schedule. Overtime work is com-

pulsory and other girls who refuse to work late have lost their jobs.

Returning home after dark, women run the gauntlet of being pestered by local hoodlums who consider them fair game for being out so late. Rapes are not uncommon for workers home-bound after night shift and factory managements take no responsibility for workers' security.

Job security in an industry so dependent on foreign markets is also uncertain. In the mid-eighties, the US, Britain, France and Canadian imposed lower quotas on Bangladesh clothes exports and 500 factories closed within months. The market opened up again in 1987 and hundreds of other factories have started since then.

During the closures, most women returned to housekeeping jobs but the begums noticed a distinct change in attitude. "I'd rather slog myself than keep one of those insolent creatures!" fumed Mrs Kabir when confronted with a very articulate returnee.

Now, with the industry booming again, there are signs the government may lend an ear to employer complaints and rein in the trade unions, preventing them doing even what little they can.

Tribunal to enact laws to protect victims of catastrophes

THE HAGUE, Dec 5. (AP): Environmentalists from India and the West said yesterday they are forming a tribunal to write international laws to protect victims of catastrophes such as the Bhopal gas leak that killed about 2,500 Indians.

The tribunal will have no binding powers, said spokeswoman Ruth Waterman of the international coalition for justice in Bhopal. It is a loosely-knit group of concerned citizens and environmentalist

organisations in western Europe, the United States and India.

About 2,500 people were killed on Dec 3, 1984, in the world's worst industrial disaster when a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas leaked into shantytowns in Bhopal. It had escaped from a plant operated by Union Carbide, the American chemical multinational.

In decisions still being disputed in courts, the Indian government was

appointed sole representative of survivors of the disaster and the Indian supreme court earlier this year agreed to a Union Carbide offer of \$470 million compensation.

"It's a ridiculous amount," Waterman told reporters in announcing the coalition's plans for the tribunal.

Payment of the damages has been delayed by the bitter dispute being fought in courts in India.

Waterman said the tribunal is not expected to address specific damage claims.

"We want to present an outline of international legislation on fixing liability in such disasters," she said. The legislative proposal is being drafted by a team of legal experts, according to Waterman.

The tribunal is scheduled to begin on Oct 2 next year with victims testifying in Bhopal, a central Indian city about 600 kilometres (360 miles) south of New Delhi.

OBITUARY

Milagrin D'Souza

Wife of Manual Baptista D'Souza (ex-KOC),

mother of John (KNPC),

Anna, Rita, Sylvester

& Inez, expired in

Goa on the 5th of

Dec. 1989.

31-65666 KALU-IN



Government troops use an armoured personnel carrier as a shield as they advance upon positions held by rebels in Makati. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soldiers point to the buildings where rebel snipers are positioned shortly before they began an offensive in Makati. (Reuters wirephoto)

Filipino senator to testify

Seattle trial waits anxiously

SEATTLE, (AP) — An attempted military coup in the Philippines has given some anxious moments to plaintiffs in a Seattle court case, who are depending on a key witness to fly from the Philippines to testify.

The wrongful-death lawsuit accuses former Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos, his widow, Imelda, and others of arranging the June 1981 murders of two Seattle union activists because of their anti-Marcos activities.

An important witness is Bonifacio Gillego, a one-time member of Marcos' intelligence network who later turned anti-Marcos and is now a senator.

Gillego is expected to "draw a lot of the threads together" from previous testimony about Marcos intelligence agents operating in the United States, said Sharon Maeda, spokeswoman for the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes.

The murder victims, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, were activist reformers in the Alaska Cannery Workers Union, which dispatched workers, many of Filipino descent, to work in Alaskan fish canneries. They were shot in the union's Seattle office on June 1, 1981.

Three men were convicted of the killings by what prosecutors said was an internal union dispute over work assignments and gunning in the canneries.

Defense attorneys in the current lawsuit claim that is still the correct motive. But the plaintiffs contend that Marcos' government marked the men for death because

of their anti-union activities, including support for anti-Marcos trade unionists in the Philippines.

It was Gillego, in particular, who drew the plaintiffs' attention to the most important document in the case: a supposed account sheet for a San Francisco company that the plaintiffs claim was used to funnel money from the Philippines to agents in this country.

That account sheet for the Mabuhay Corp. includes a 15,000-dollar entry that plaintiffs claim was used to pay for the murders.

"The most significant (witness) is Bonifacio Gillego, because he, as a former member of Philippines intelligence, can confirm the inner workings of Marcos' intelligence operations," said Cindy Domingo, the sister of one of the slain men.

As a legislator, Gillego was required to obtain special permission to leave the Philippines during the coup emergency. Ms Domingo said. At last report he had obtained that permission, but still faced the task of trying to get a flight out of the country to appear here, probably next week.

At least 70 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded since mutineers seized several military installations and bombed the presidential palace in Manila on Friday, according to the Red Cross. The city's international airport reopened Monday, but domestic air service was indefinitely postponed.

The chances of Gillego being able to

attend "look very good," Ms Domingo said Monday. Less certain was the status of Randolph David, a Philippines University professor who was scheduled to testify about Marcos' martial-law regime.

If David is unable to leave the Philippines, he would likely give a deposition by telephone, Ms Domingo said.

Much of the testimony so far in the 2-week-old trial has focused on the nature of Marcos' intelligence apparatus. In one deposition, for example, Arthur Balmaceda, a military officer who became an information officer in the Philippines consulate in Honolulu, said part of his job involved keeping track of anti-Marcos activists.

"That was not explicit in my function, but these people... demonstrate in front of the consulate, so we said, 'all right, we better know who was demonstrating,'" he said.

Balmaceda said he also monitored the anti-Marcos press, and sent reports on anti-Marcos demonstrations to Manila through the Philippine News Agency.

Trinidad Alconcel, former consul general for the Philippines in San Francisco and Honolulu, also said in his deposition that anti-Marcos activities were noted in reports sent back to Manila. But he said activists gave him little trouble.

"I don't have to fight the anti-Marcos. There was so few here," he said. "I don't need to fight or confront them."

The suit, filed in September 1982, seeks \$30 million on behalf of the men's families.

US is proud of you, Bush pat for Cory

Philippines President assures safety of Americans

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (Reuters): President George Bush called Philippine President Corason Aquino last night to express continued US support for her handling of the coup attempt that began on Friday.

"We are proud of you for standing up with great courage. We want to see you succeed," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater quoted Bush saying.

Bush spoke to Aquino shortly after returning to the White House from Brussels, where he briefed US allies on his summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The President tried to call Mrs Aquino earlier in the day and was unable to get through. So when we got home... he went immediately up to residence and re-placed the call," Fitzwater said.

Vice-President Dan Quayle presided over an all-night meeting of the National Security Council in the White House, and Bush later approved overflights by US fighter jets based in the Philippines to keep rebel aircraft on the ground.

Fitzwater quoted Bush as telling Aquino: "I understand some Americans are in the hotels. Can we get those people out? I'm very concerned about their lives and their safety."

"She assured him they were doing everything possible to protect American lives," Fitzwater said. "Then the President ended the conversation by saying, 'I appreciate your concern for the civilians. We're proud of you for standing up with great courage. We want to see you succeed'."

Asked if Bush was considering sending in US troops to rescue the Americans, Fitzwater said, "we don't think that will be necessary."

He said Bush called Aquino because, "he just wanted to register his concern for the lives of Americans who were trapped in these hotels. He just wanted to ask that she make every attempt to protect their lives."

Aquino's government is in control, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said yesterday.

He added that he was unaware of any request from the Aquino government except for the neutralisation of rebel planes, provision of medical supplies and expedited resupply of military equipment, such as anti-tank weapons.

All of those requests have been fulfilled, he said.

"We do think the government now has the situation under control, and we continue to believe that the government has shown very able resilience in responding to this situation..." he told reporters in a daily briefing.

"The action accomplished its mission without the US having to use any of its fire power, and without injury to any Philippine citizens. No American forces were ever engaged in combat during the crisis," Boucher said.

The spokesman added that he was told the United States did not have any specific advance knowledge of the insurrection.

Boucher reported Philippine government offices and the international airport open for incoming and outgoing flights.

He said the Red Cross has estimated the death toll at about 150 and the injured requiring hospital care at nearly 2,000. But he said he could not confirm those numbers.

On Cebu island 15 buses have carried 450 foreigners — half of them Americans — to Cebu city, he said. He added that the civilian airport there remained closed.

The Philippine foreign secretary said today it was unlikely that talks on the future of US bases would start as planned this month, as military mutineers continued battling the government.

Yesterday, Senate president Jovito Salonga suggested that talks on a new bases agreement be postponed.

"I've taken note on that suggestion," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters.

Bush told Aquino he was very concerned about the lives and safety of US citizens trapped in Manila's financial centre, where mutinous troops were making a last stand.

The State Department said most of the estimated 3,000 US citizens who live in residential neighbourhoods adjacent to Makati, the financial centre, had been able to leave the area despite a new flareup in fighting there.

But about 210 Americans in the hotels in Makati had not been able to depart, Mary Carlin Yates, a State Department spokeswoman, said.



Manila residents comfort each other in a hospital emergency room after their house was blown up during fighting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Americans held

Bush hopes for safety

(Continued from Page 1)

in the cross-fire of an attempted coup, a White House spokesman said today.

Aquino informed Bush she would do everything possible to protect the US citizens, said White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater.

The State Department said no agreement had been reached in negotiations between the Philippine government and the rebels over the freedom of US citizens trapped in three hotels in the Manila suburb of Makati.

Earlier today, negotiations between tourism officials and rebel leaders led to a planned ceasefire to evacuate about 2,000 foreigners.

But as tourists began to evacuate the Intercontinental Hotel and board buses for other hotels, bursts of gunfire sent them racing back inside, held by the rebels since Saturday when the mutinous soldiers swarmed into the district.

Panic-stricken hotel guests threw themselves on the lobby floor and crawled under furniture for safety during the fighting today.

"If you're not afraid, you're crazy," said Wayne Rogers, an engineer from Dallas, one of about 200 US visitors in the war zone and a guest at the Intercontinental. "I just want to go home."

Philippine staffers at the nearby Nikko Manila Garden Hotel also had begun to stream out when managers delayed their evacuation and another 6,000

foreign residents living in elegant high-rises in the area also were ready to evacuate when the shooting started.

Rebels and government officials blamed each other for the gunfire, which went on into the night. Negotiations on the evacuation were expected to resume tomorrow.

The US embassy advised all US citizens living in Makati to withdraw to safer ground, saying, "It is likely that heavy fighting will continue."

Scores of US citizens did flee to hotels near Manila Bay, such as the Philippine Plaza which set up cots in its ballroom. But most US citizens were too frightened by fighting in neighbourhood housing the US Chinese and Soviet ambassadors.

In Washington, the US government there was "some uncertainty" about the status of American tourists and businessmen unable to leave the Philippines.

"You can be assured that the Pentagon has contingency plans for everything," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. He declined to elaborate on possible additional military steps.

Military spokesmen said they knew of no plans for US forces to get involved immediately.

In addition to the 400 rebel Scout Rangers in Makati, a similar number occupied Mactan air base in Cebu, 560 kilometres (350 miles) south of Manila.

The leader of the Mactan rebels, Brig. Gen. Jose Commen-

dador, told reporters today that if the government used force against him, it would trigger a "nationwide uprising by the military."

Troops set up roadblocks north of Manila because of reports that rebel reinforcements were headed to the capital. Manila's police chief, Maj. Gen. Alfredo Lim, issued "shoot to kill" orders for any mutineers found infiltrating the capital in civilian clothes.

In a statement issued today in Hong Kong, Laurel said the resignation of the government would allow for "a new mandate" and prevent the country from slipping into civil war.

Resignation of the government is among the rebel demands. Although he is Vice President, Laurel broke with Aquino in 1987 and has formed his own opposition party.

Roberto Pagdanganan, governor of Bulacan province, told reporters that Sen. Neptali Gonzales, chairman of the pro-Aquino struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, suggested in a meeting with Aquino and local officials that she dismiss her cabinet.

Pagdanganan said most of those who attended the yesterday's meeting endorsed the proposal, but Aquino offered no opinion.

At least two people were killed and 15 wounded in today's fighting, including a six-year-old girl killed when a 60mm mortar fired by the rebels slammed into a squatter settlement near the Makati medical centre.

Embittered 'Ram boys' trying to dislodge Aquino

MANILA, (AP) — A messianic vision for their nation and bitterness over power denied have driven an elite clique of talented military officers to try repeatedly to depose the president they helped put in power.

Sparkheading the current coup attempt against President Corason Aquino is a reform the Armed Forces movement, a clique of idealistic officers who banded together in 1985 to oppose the corruption of the military under late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Some members of the group, known as Ram, were behind coup attempts in November 1986, August 1987, as well as the current attempted putsch.

The "Ram Boys" believe the Aquino administration, for its democratic pretensions, represents the same system of nepotism, elitism and corruption as the Marcos government.

Last Saturday, Ram issued a manifesto demanding the resignation of Aquino to pave the way for a referendum to decide the form of government in the Philippines.

The statement accused Aquino of pursuing the same ruinous policies of her predecessors and of failing to initiate social and economic reforms. In the past they also accused her of favouring leftists and cuddling rebels while ignoring the interests of the armed forces.

Ram emerged publicly when they unfurled a banner during graduation exercises at the Philippine Military Academy saying "we belong." They were referred to as "born again soldiers," committed to restoring discipline

and professionalism in the ranks.

Members of the clique include some of the most talented members of the military. They include the charismatic renegade Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the August 1987 attempted coup and believed to be a key leader in the current fighting.

Their political philosophy seems similar of the fascists in Italy in the 1920s: society should forswear the give-and-take of politics for an orderly, disciplined and decisive approach to solving national problems.

By contrast, Aquino prefers consultation, where seemingly endless public debate produces a consensus which she accepts. She tends to rely heavily on people whose primary qualification is personal loyalty to her or her late husband, Benigno Aquino Jr.

During the failed coup of August 1987, a young Ram lieutenant, Robert Lee, appeared on a commandeered television station to proclaim his movement's goals. Lee said Philippine society suffered from "too much politics" — endless debate without resolution.

The Ram clique became associated with then-defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile in a marriage of convenience based on their mutual opposition to Marcos' military chief of staff, Gen. Fabian Ver.

Ver, a distant relative of Marcos, had circumvented the chain of command by his relationship with the president and his wife, Imelda, and undermined Enrile's position as defence chief.

Ver had also solidified his power by appointing supporters to senior commands, regardless of merit. Ram officers, therefore, looked to Enrile as their mentor.

In 1985, as the Marcos administration weakened, Ram officers began to plot to overthrow the government and replace it with a junta which would force discipline and order on chaotic society.

Ram sources say they planned to trigger a coup attempt in late 1985 but delayed the plot after Marcos announced special presidential elections for February 1986.

When Marcos used massive fraud to "win" the election against Aquino, Ram issued a statement saying the "will of the people" had been foiled.

Plans were laid for a coup, in which soldiers in rubber boats would cross the Pasig river

and storm the presidential palace.

But Ver learned of the plot and ordered the arrest of Enrile and others. When Enrile found out that he was to be arrested, he and his "boys" withdrew to military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and declared opposition to Marcos.

But the move failed to win over enough units of the Philippine military to assure success. Enrile and then-vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos appealed to Cardinal Jaime Sin and opposition groups for support.

Hundreds of thousands of people heeded the cardinal's call to turn out in the streets to "protect" the mutineers. Ram's cost for such support was declaration of support for Aquino as the rightful president.



'Ballet promotes stamina, musicality and expression'

STUDENTS of the Steps Ballet School are now busy rehearsing for their annual ballet, due to be held on Saturday, Dec 9, at the Kuwait English School, Salwa.

The Steps Ballet School, founded five years ago, has reached a high standard. This enabled students to take their first examination in May 1988. An examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, came to Kuwait to conduct the tests. The Royal Academy sends examiners to schools all over the world which teach its syllabus. The Steps Ballet School is one of them.

This year's annual performance is a production with a difference.

Instead of a show, the school's management decided to demonstrate the actual syllabus taught to its pupils.

"We want to show parents how a child, who begins class at ballet training at the age of five, progresses to the senior grades," explained Marilyn Hayat.

The syllabus contains ballet steps and exercises, especially choreographed, to promote stamina, musicality and expression. In contrast to the musical work, the syllabus also contains character dancing using steps and styles from all over Europe. This work is equally important to lay the foundation for the "demi-character",

dancing seen in such classical ballets as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker and Coppelia. Character work demands great style, musicality and energy.

There are set dances for students of different grades in which each child gets a chance to display expression and skills.

Although entry is free, patrons are requested to reserve seats in advance. For reservations call 5386481, 9am to 12 noon. The display will be at 6pm on Dec 9, Saturday, at the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Enquiries about the school can also be made on the telephone number given above.



Satkaar's 'Sharad-mela'

Satkaar, an active Indian cultural organisation welcomed the winter season by celebrating 'Sharad-Mela' (Winter Fair) with stupendous success, at the Indian Arts Circle.

Spicy food was followed by games including bingo. Over 6,000 participants took part.

Two bumper raffle draws were held. Indian Ambassador, Mr A.K. Budhiraja, started the raffle by drawing the lucky ticket.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 10.00 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Bait Min Waraq: Arabic serial (part 8)
- 11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 12.00 Circus: Variety programme
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The opening and Holy Quran

KTV 2

- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Bireen: cartoon serial (part 1)
- 5.15 Football lessons: sports programme
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and officials advertisements
- 6.00 Al Islam Hadbara: religious serial (part 26)
- 7.00 Housing and Citizens: local programme, prepared by the National Housing Authority
- 7.45 Television Network: local programme prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Sabar: Arabic serial (part 11)
- 11.30 Heml Al Mahamel: Arabic play, starring Adel Afafa, Roubi Al Safadi, Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, and Nadera Khaled
- 1.15 News Summary
- 1.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.00 Holy Quran and Closedown
- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.00 News in English

- 6.10 Voltron. A cartoon series for children.
- 6.30 Danger Bay "Second Honeymoon." When Grant is quarantined with chicken pox, J.L. takes the opportunity to look after him and have a second honeymoon.
- 7.00 Beyond 2000. A new devised method for discovering underground water... X-ray device for detecting terrorist activities... A new vehicle for detecting weak sits on roads. Designing furniture in Sweden... Laser for music instrument...
- 8.30 The Great Circuses of the World. Acrobatic shows and a variety of exciting circus games from different countries.
- 9.30 Wildlife On One. "Jewel in The Sun". A look at wildlife in the jungles of "Gambia."
- 10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "Julia". Starring Jane Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave, Janson Roberts, Maximilian Schell, Lillian Hellman reflects on the fortunes of her friend Julia, and finally killed by the Nazis.
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Saaz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Star Nite

DEC 21: Thursday Christmas dinner social at Ramada Al Salam Le Miraj Ballroom from 9 pm with Stepping Stones music. Variety entertainment and prizes galore for lucky 5 5 5 promotion and X'mas Hamper draws with sumptuous buffet at mid-night. Children's programme commences at 6 to 8.30 pm with Fancy Dress Competition. For reservations please contact Vincent Tel. 2413706. James 5331940 also at Shop No. 34 A.M. Ex-New Super Market Kuwait.

X'mas tree '89

CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmadi, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza - Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale for the following performances: Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm, Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 now to avoid disappointment.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

FCC's Red-Letter Day

THE Holiday Season is fast approaching and what better way is there than to celebrate it on Dec 8, 1989 - when the Filipino Cultural Club presents another evening of wonderful entertainment. FCC welcomes Filipinos and other nationalities in Kuwait, to join them at the Al Fintas Poolside of the Kuwait hotel Meridian from 5 pm, for a Christmas Special - Fiesta Extravaganza '89.

As the year comes to a close, and in the true spirit of Christmas, FCC's "special year-end" - Fiesta Extravaganza '89 promises another evening of delight for each and everyone. Highlights include a sumptuous dinner, a dance, a raffle draw, and a special entertainment show to be presented in the typical FCC style, featuring a musical potpourri of songs and dances showcasing the inimitable talents of the FCC Performers. Show Directors are Jun Sta. Maria and Lolita Matig-a.

Proceeds of the event will be used for the FCC's various welfare projects and other forthcoming productions. Tickets are still available from the following outlets: Mabuhay Restaurant (Tel. 2436121), Mabuhay Salon for Men and Women (Tel. 2420534), Samar Grocery (Tel. 2404849), Philippine Gift Shop (Tel. 2439451) and from the FCC Members. For further details, please contact Florence de los Santos at the above-mentioned outlets. Don't forget, December 8, 1989 is a red-letter day.

Bhartiya Kala Sangam

A family get-together for members of Bhartiya Kala Sangam will be held at the Indian Embassy premises on Thursday, Dec 7, 1989 at 7.30 pm. There will be an entertainment programme including 'fancy dress competition' for children, lucky draw, and sumptuous buffet for members. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. For details please contact tele. 5628171, 2551305.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

X'mas tree

DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

Music Night

MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

Radha and Raja

INDIA'S finest Kuchipudi Dancers Dr Radha and Dr Raja Reddi are going to present their dance performance on 7th and 8th of December at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. For details please contact 3904817.

NRI General Body Meeting

NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

German-speaking Cultural Association

The association's next event will be at the St Nicholas Party on Thursday, Dec 7, 3 pm at International Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Tickets for this event will be available at the bazaar, German embassy, German school, library and at the coffee morning.

KOSA meeting

KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

Variety Show

UPKAAR is a newly formed non-profit cultural group of Hindi/Urdu speaking expatriates in Kuwait. Upkaar, whose aim is to promote art, culture and literature is going to hold an inaugural variety entertainment programme at Al Sharq Co-operative Auditorium comprising of dances, dramas, musical items and pantomimes on December 15 at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner. Interested persons may contact 4880965 or 2615515.

United Goans Centre

SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X'mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises awaits the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tony 2612024 or Moses 2424293.

British Council

Greystoke - The Legend of Tarzan
SATURDAY, 9 and Sunday, 10 December, 6.30pm, 1.30 min. This is an extremely interesting and unusual film. This Tarzan manages to lose his primate and human families. His disillusionment with what he sees of civilization, despairing of ever feeling truly at home at Greystoke, he returns to the jungle. The case is excellent, but the real stars are the team of actors who portrayed so realistically the jungle apes.

ACT Auditions

AUDITIONS for ACT's upcoming production of "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be held Wednesday, December 6th from 7.30 to 9.30 and Thursday, December 7th from 3.00 to 5.00. The production is scheduled for Feb 20 - 22nd. Parts are available to suit your abilities and schedule. Any person interested in getting involved please call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm for more details.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait, Jahra, Fahd Al Salem St. Talal, Helali St. Hawalli & Nagra, Noura, Othman St. Salmiya, Randa, Salem Al Mubarak St. Fahadheel, Gulf, Complex st. Kheitan, Fahd, Kheitan, Jahra, Abraj, Dubil Al Khuzae st.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.04 am
Zohr	11.39
Asr	2.31 pm
Maghreb	4.49
Isha	6.11

Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funaites Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

SPORTS

Football Tournament

PEOPLE'S Trust Club tie-breaker football tournament for all Indian teams to commemorate Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Year on 15th Dec. on Sour Ground at 8.30 am. Contact Dominic Rodrigues and Camilo.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Shock Troop Salmiyah Hall Booked	Fahadheel Arabic film	Sulabhikhat Dance Music
Al Hamra Over Board Drive-in	Al Jahra C.H.U.D	Jleeb Moonstruck
Al Firdous	Granada Arabic film	Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film
Jaisi Karni Waisi Bharni		
Fahadheel Open Janam Janam		



Christmas Bazaar

THE German Speaking Cultural Association recently held a Christmas Bazaar at the Old Failaka Room of the Kuwait International Hotel. Many items linked with Christmas were on show.



Chinese Exhibition

VISITORS at the Chinese Exhibition that is being held until 6th December at the lower lobby of Kuwait International Hotel. The exhibition has drawn huge crowds because it displays a new consignment with new designs for woollen and silk carpets and other household items.

EXHIBITION

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Coup won't deter loan commitments

MANILA, Dec 5, (Reuters): Loans committed by foreign governments to the Philippines will go ahead despite the latest abortive coup but private investment may be put on hold, Finance Secretary Vincente Jayme said today.

"I think as far as loan commitments are concerned those who have already committed will go ahead," he told reporters after meeting President Corason Aquino at the presidential palace.

Foreign donors have committed \$3.5 billion to the Philippines for the first year of a five-year aid programme designed to underpin the local economy, and Jayme said he expected multilateral aid to continue.

He said businessmen would now review investment plans in the country but he hoped foreign capital that might leave the country in the near-term would flow back when the situation returned to normal.

Business in Manila's financial district of Makati was at a standstill for the fifth straight day as government troops tried to flush out pockets of rebels holed up on top of high-rise buildings.

"The many effects of an event like this do set back the economy," Jayme said.

Businessmen have said the violent mutiny, the sixth and most serious against the government, would put in jeopardy economic gains so far achieved by the government.

"We have to give assurances to the investors that this is the last coup," he said.

The government has pinned its hopes for sustained economic growth largely on foreign investment.

The local economy grew by a robust 6.7 per cent last year. In estimates made before the latest coup, growth this year was expected to slow to 5.8 per cent and to rebound to 6.3 per cent next year.

Government officials said it was too early to estimate how growth would be affected by the coup attempt.

Petra Bank owes Visa over \$4 million

AMMAN, Dec 5, (Reuters): Jordan's Petra Bank still owes Visa International, the US-based credit card company, more than \$4 million, but began repayments after Visa agreed to resume honouring Petra-issued cards, the bank said today.

Petra Bank's government-appointed general manager Basam Atari told Reuters the bank would repay \$50,000 each working day to cover the sum of \$1.7 million.

He said a further \$3.8 million owed to Visa would be "considered for rescheduling after Arthur Andersen and company's report on the accounts of the bank is ready for circulation in early 1990."

The repayments began on Nov 27 when Visa resumed its service for the reduced number of Petra Bank clients who still hold Visa International or Visa Golden Cards, he said.

Atari said Petra Bank had settled substantial amounts owed to other banks in Jordan and abroad which had used Petra as processing and authorisation agent for their Visa cards.

Petra Bank's new management, appointed after a government takeover on August 3, inherited obligations of about \$8 million related to the Visa card service, he said.

Visa International suspended dealings with Petra Bank in late August because of missed payments.

Jordanian officials have accused former Petra Bank head Ahmed Chalabi of large-scale fraud and embezzlement. Chalabi, who fled the country in August, has denied the charges.

Al Khaled for Iraq

KUWAIT, Dec 5, (Kuna): Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled left here today for Baghdad leading the country's delegation for the Kuwaiti Trade Week.

Khaled said he would have talks with his Iraqi counterpart and other concerned officials on promotion of trade relations between the two countries.

Tomorrow Al Khaled is scheduled to have talks with Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Faraj and the Minister of Industry Major General Hussein Kamil.

Bonn stays on track for record economic growth

BONN, Dec 5, (Reuters): Surging demand for West German exports is propelling Europe's largest economy towards a year of record growth, official data released today showed.

But the figures also indicated that domestic demand remained weak and economists saw it reviving only after income tax cuts and an influx of East European immigrants and East German refugees had started to take effect.

The Federal Statistic Office said the West German economy grew by one per cent in the third quarter of 1989 from the second quarter. Gross national product (GNP), the main

measure of economic growth, was 3.3 per cent above the same 1988 period.

"This shows a strong upward trend," said Juergen Pfister, an economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt. He added that exports followed by investment, were driving growth.

Economists said the data proved that West Germany would achieve record growth for the decade of more than four per cent beating a previous peak performance set in 1979.

Ulrich Hombrecher, an economist at Dusseldorf's Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, said domestic demand was still suffering from the effects of consumer tax rises imposed

by the Bonn government earlier this year.

The data shows domestic demand at only 1.6 per cent above the same 1988 period, while exports were nine per cent higher.

Hombrecher said weaker domestic demand meant West Germany was importing less and this was reflected in the country's massive trade surplus, forecast to hit a record 140 billion marks (\$70 billion) this year.

Much of the trade surplus is due to the weakness over the last two years of the mark against other European currencies, but West German officials say a revaluation within the European

Monetary System is difficult because of French opposition.

France has a trade deficit with West Germany and French inflation would rise with a franc devaluation against the mark.

But economists warn that the Bonn government must push through a revaluation of the mark before moves towards currency union in Europe fix exchange rates at present levels.

Some say West Germany could face international pressure if it fails to take measures to cut its trade surplus. "The accusations could start," Hombrecher said.

France and the United States have in

the past criticised Bonn for doing too little to stimulate domestic demand and cut its trade surplus.

Warren Oliver, an economist at London brokers Ubs-Phillips and Drew, said income tax cuts planned from January and a surge in spending by the thousands of refugees and immigrants should cut West Germany's trade surplus by sucking in imports.

Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said the data showed the economy was growing without any serious danger of a resurgence in inflation. "Consumer prices have settled down again," he said in a statement.

Earlier this year inflation peaked at

3.2 per cent but last month stood at a provisional three per cent.

West Germany also released figures showing a rise in the unemployment rate to 7.6 per cent in November from 7.3 per cent the month before.

Federal Labour Office president Heinrich Franke said the economy was coping with the influx but their arrival would nevertheless bloat the jobless numbers in the short term.

Nearly 120,000 East German refugees were unemployed last month, close to the number arriving in the same period. More than 120,000 East European immigrants are also looking for work.

World demand for Opec oil will continue to grow

Saudi, Kuwaiti and Iraqi link cited in Opec success

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Dec 5, (AP): Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said yesterday that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq spearheaded the success of the recent Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting.

"It was the initial complete co-ordination between the kingdom, Iraq and Kuwait that led in the end to full co-ordination and co-operation among all members," Nazer said.

His remarks, made during the weekly Saudi cabinet session chaired by Crown Prince Abdullah, were later distributed by Information Minister Ali Al Shaer.

The Opec meeting last week in Vienna agreed to raise the overall production ceiling of member states by 1.5 million barrels per day to 22 million for the first half of 1990.

This came closer to actual production levels, currently estimated at around 23-23.5 million barrels per day.

Only the United Arab Emirates was exempted from the accord since it was designated a 1.5 million barrels per day quota which it rejected.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Saeed Otaiba later said his country was producing at the rate of 2.6 million barrels per day but would limit itself to 2 million as of Jan 1, provided other Opec members stuck to their quotas.

Under the 22 million figure, the UAE was left with a 1.095 million barrels per day quota.

Abdullah Al Roumi, a ranking official of the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corp., was quoted by the Kuwait News Agency as saying Kuwait output is running at the rate of 1.85 million barrels per day, but that Kuwait would reduce that to the prescribed quota by Jan 1.

"This reduction will not affect our long-term customers, whether with respect to crude oil or petroleum products," Al Roumi affirmed.

The Saudi oil minister was meanwhile also quoted as expressing satisfaction with the "full quota" the kingdom was given, namely 24.5 per cent of the total. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil-exporting nation in the world.

This translates into 5.38

million barrels per day as of Jan 1 as compared to the current 5.014 million.

"Practical considerations indicate that the circle of ceiling violations has now been confined to a limited number of (Opec) members and that the potential of these members to violate their quotas is marked by published figures," Nazer told the cabinet.

Pointing out this would reduce supply to the market by no less than 1.5 million barrels per day, Nazer said this assured well for increasing or at least stabilising prices.

"It is possible that prices will balance out and then begin to rise gradually," he said.

Opec's target price is a stable \$18 per barrel.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas predicted today that Opec oil production in the first semester of 1990 would go over the organisation's quota by half a million barrels per day, but would remain below current production of some 23.5 million bpd.

Armas spoke to reporters for the first time following his return

from the year-end Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Vienna last week.

At the meeting, Opec ministers agreed to raise current Opec global production to 22.086 million bpd.

But Armas said current production was actually between 23.5 and 24 million bpd.

Armas said Opec officials estimated that the organisation would overproduce some 800,000 to 900,000 bpd in the first half of 1990, but with some countries producing below quotas to maintain price levels, actual production would come in at 22.4 to 22.5 million bpd, some half a million bpd over the quota.

"In practice, we will be taking off the market some 700,000 to 1.1 million bpd, which should translate into fortifying current pricing," said Armas.

Armas said the Opec ministers had concluded that world demand for Opec oil will continue to grow, "moderately but steadily," into 1990, and that the current reference price for Opec crude of \$18 per barrel would continue.

W. German mark firms, pound steady

Gold eases

LONDON, Dec 5, (Reuters): The West German mark ended slightly firmer in quiet European business and dealers said the spark had started to go out of the market in the run-up to Christmas.

"Before Christmas, no one has any ambition to earn big money," said one Frankfurt dealer. "Those who have already earned it this year are holding back. For the others it is too late."

The mark closed in London at 1.7870 to the dollar after ending Monday at 1.7807.

"The underlying direction is still up," one dealer said.

The market showed little reaction to data confirming that the West German economy, Europe's largest, was on track for four per cent growth, the highest for 10 years.

Gross national product rose one per cent in the third quarter against the second to produce a year-on-year expansion of 3.3 per cent.

The figure was as expected. There has been no reaction," a dealer in Frankfurt said.

"The market still believes the economy will continue to be supported by developments in East Germany," said another.

Dealers said the dollar would remain under pressure ahead of US November unemployment figures due out on Friday.

The dollar ended at 143.75 Japanese yen after 143.55. Against the pound sterling it finished at 1.5715 after 1.5635.

The pound held steady as dealers awaited the result, due after European markets had closed, of a vote for the leadership of the ruling Conservative Party.

Although Margaret Thatcher was expected to win confidently, dealers said over 40 to 50 votes against, including abstentions, could hit overseas confidence in sterling.

Gold closed lower at \$403.13 an ounce in London after \$406.50 as the market came under pressure from early losses in Asia, billion traders said.

Gold closed lower at \$403.13 an ounce in London after \$406.50 as the market came under pressure from early losses in Asia, billion traders said.

Sheikh Ali in Tokyo

TOKYO, Dec 5, (Kuna): Managing director for marketing affairs at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ali arrived here today for a several day visit.

Sheikh Ali is scheduled to have talks with senior Japanese officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and other officials at concerned Japanese companies.

From here, Sheikh Ali is due to proceed to South Korea.

Danny Wall resigns

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (Reuters): M. Danny Wall, the official in charge of regulating the US savings and loan industry, resigned yesterday under fire for delaying the closure of a California institution whose bailout is likely to cost American taxpayers a record \$2.5 billion.

Wall, director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, formerly the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, said he was stepping down to end turmoil at the agency that threatened to interfere with the recovery of the ailing savings and loan industry.

Savings and loan institutions, known as thrifts, provide about half of the new home loans in the US and own assets worth \$1.3 trillion. But a combination of factors, including deregulation in the early 1980s that led thrift managers to engage in riskier areas such as commercial development and many instances of fraud, caused many savings and loans to fail. Earlier this year, Congress approved \$159 billion to bail out the industry.

Wall, the chief regulator of the thrift industry for two of its most difficult years, announced his decision at a news conference and released a copy of his resignation letter to President George Bush.

Gulf oil output to remain high

Taps will be turned down later

DUBAI, Dec 5, (Reuters): Gulf oil production will remain high in December, but the crude taps will be turned down slightly at the end of the month to comply with the latest Opec output pact, Gulf oil industry analysts said.

"(Gulf) output will remain high in December for sure, but most states will have to cut some of their excess production in January," an oil industry analyst in the Gulf said.

Oil production by the five big Gulf Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran — totalled almost 16 million barrels per day (bpd) in November out of an estimated Opec output of 23.5 million, analysts estimated.

Opec oil ministers, with the exception of the UAE, agreed last Tuesday in Vienna to raise the group's agreed production ceiling to 22.1 million bpd from 20.5 million in the first half of 1990.

The UAE rejected an offer of a 1.5 million bpd quota on grounds that it was too small when set against its actual oil reserves and output capacity.

It is still not clear what total January output will be because the UAE is effectively free to produce whatever it wants and it is not yet known if Saudi Arabia will lower output to its new agreed quota level of 5.38 million bpd.

"Saudi Arabia wants its 24.6 per cent market share. No one knows if they will cut output to their new quota, or calculate output on its market share level based on actual Opec production, as it is doing now," one Gulf-based analyst said.

Some analysts project total Opec output at around 22.4-22.5 million bpd in January, but others say it could be higher.

Saudi Arabia's output in November was estimated around 5.6 million bpd against its current sales quota of 5.014 million.

Saudi Arabia's production this month may be

above November's as the kingdom's tanker chartering arm Vela hired at least six supertankers last week to carry over 2.3 million tonnes of crude to Western destinations, oil sources said.

"They may want to carry as much as they can before the end of the year," one analyst commented on the charterings.

For Opec, a bright spot in the latest agreement is Kuwait's acceptance of a 1.5 million bpd allocation, after it had basically stayed away from the group's quota structure since last June, arguing like the UAE that its limit was too low.

Kuwait will cut its output to 1.5 million in January. Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa said in Vienna after the Opec pact.

The UAE is also expected to cut its output to around two million in January from an estimated 2.2-2.3 million now, oil industry sources in the Gulf said. Some industry sources say the UAE has at times been producing as much as 2.5 million bpd.

Oil industry sources expect Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE, to cut its output to around 1.5-1.6 million bpd in January from the current 1.9 million.

The sources say Abu Dhabi onshore and offshore fields were producing above their sustainable levels in the past couple of months and this might cause problems both for the reservoirs and the equipment.

The total UAE output will then be around two million with around 400,000 bpd production from Dubai, the second producer in the federation.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Iran and Iraq, which were given equal sales quotas of 3.140 million bpd, are not expected to produce above these limits. Some sources claim it is physically impossible for the Gulf war enemies to produce above these limits. However, the oil ministers of Iran and Iraq, put their output capacities at 3.5 million and 4.5 million bpd, respectively.

French trade soars into surplus

PARIS, Dec 5, (Reuters): French trade swung sharply into surplus in September for the first in a year after running up its deepest monthly deficit for 6-1/2 years in August.

A much stronger performance by manufacturing industry in September gave France a trade surplus of 2.20 billion francs (\$360 million), the customs office said today.

The franc and all Paris financial markets rose on the news which went part of the way toward erasing growing worries after August's 9.32 billion franc (\$1.5 billion) shortfall.

But economists and dealers warned that the vagaries of seasonal adjustments, sales of aircraft by the Toulouse-based Airbus Industrie consortium and industrial activity in French industry had made the monthly figures volatile.

"The monthly figures are not very reliable," one senior currency dealer said.

In September, exports were up just over two per cent at 96.43 billion francs (\$15.8 billion), while imports fell by nine per cent to 94.23 billion francs (\$15.4 billion).

But the industrial balance, suffering for most of the past 18 months from heavy imports of equipment to modernise manufacturing industry, wiped out the entire 10 billion franc (\$1.6 billion) deficit in August to show a small surplus of 840 million francs (\$138 million) in September.

Adam Kindreich, French economist for London's Morgan Grenfell Merchant Bank, commented: "This doesn't necessarily point to an improvement in the near term."

He forecast that France would still see its trade gap for the current year widen 40 per cent to 46 billion francs (\$7.5 billion), although it would narrow again in 1990.

In the first nine months of 1989 the deficit has already risen to 32 billion francs (\$5.3 billion) from 25 billion francs (\$4.1 billion) in the same period last year.

France, which has a 38 per cent stake in the Airbus consortium, exported 10 Airbus aircraft in September, worth 2.79 billion francs (\$457 million) compared with six in August valued at 1.68 billion (\$275 million).

West Germany, Britain and Spain are also Airbus partners.

The figures showed that France also performed much better against its major trading partners.

Its deficit with its powerful Eastern neighbour West Germany dropped 36 per cent to 4.42 billion francs (\$725 million), while the trade shortfall against the United States fell 60 per cent to 880 million francs (\$144 million).

Against all European Economic Community partners, France showed a trade deficit of 2.82 billion francs (\$462 million), reducing the August gap by 57 per cent, the data showed.

EEC pact means cheaper air fares

BRUSSELS, Dec 5, (Reuters): Air travellers will enjoy lower fares and better choice of service after 1992, a senior EEC official said today.

"We have seen a major breakthrough in the achievement of the liberalisation of air transport," competition commissioner Sir Leon Brittan told a news conference. "If people ask what can the community give us of a specific, tangible kind, there is no more direct answer than to say lower fares and a greater choice as far as the individual traveller is concerned."

In a surprise accord late on Monday, transport ministers decided in principle to introduce a controversial system of "double disapproval" for fares by January 1, 1993.

Under this a fare needs only the approval of one government at either end of a route, instead of from both as at present.

It is one of two main parts of a reform package drafted by the European Commission. Agreement well before a July 1, 1990, deadline was a surprise because several EEC governments were anxious to protect state-owned carriers from increased competition.

A final accord has still to be negotiated over the first half of next year.

In a second breakthrough, the ministers agreed in principle to introduce more competition between airlines. At present, an airline based at one end of a route cannot take more than 60 per cent of traffic between two EEC countries.

The aim is to gradually lift this ceiling so as to remove all restrictions by January 1, 1993.

The ministers also agreed the final deal should allow airlines more freedom to establish themselves in other EEC countries.

They decided that from July 1, 1992 governments should not discriminate against airlines registered on their territory. This would apply both to a country's smaller airlines and to subsidiaries of foreign carriers.

IBM to cut 10,000 jobs

Cost-cutting measures

NEW YORK, Dec 5, (Reuters): International Business Machines Corp. said today it will eliminate 10,000 jobs by the end of 1990 and take a \$2.3 billion pre-tax charge in the fourth quarter of the year for cost-cutting measures.

The giant computer company had been expected to act to reduce its cost after product delays and rising competition hurt 1989 profits. Its third-quarter per share earnings fell sharply to \$1.51 from \$2.10 a year earlier, due partly to a delay in introducing a disk storage device.

IBM chairman John Akers told a meeting of Wall Street analysts that the staff reductions would cut its domestic work force by at least 10,000 people to 206,000 by the end of 1990, a reduction of 37,000 employees from 1985 levels.

The cuts would be achieved through restricted hiring, additional retirement and higher attrition rates at nearly every IBM location in the United States said chief financial officer Frank Metz.

IBM has restructured operations over the last three years to lower costs, shedding several businesses and cutting the number of employees by nearly 20,000.

Akers also announced that IBM's board had authorised spending up to \$4 billion to buy back its shares.

The new stock repurchase programme will bring the company's total stock purchases since 1986 to \$10.5 billion or about 15 per cent of share outstanding at that time, company officials said.

By purchasing its own stock, a company pushes up the closely watched earnings-per-share and helps boost the price of stock still on the market.

Call to set up environment fund

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Dec 5, (AP): Science, Technology and Environment Minister Stephen Yong called today for setting up a global fund for research on substitutes for chemicals that destroy the Earth's protective ozone layer.

Yong said the fund could be used to establish an international research centre where the world's best scientists could search for alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs.

Yong was opening a three-day workshop attended by environmental journalists from Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Singapore, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand.

CFCs, used mainly in aerosols, solvents and refrigerants, have been blamed by scientists for thinning the ozone layer that protects against the sun's cancer-causing ultraviolet rays.

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Oman blocks currency speculators

DUBAI, Dec 5, (Reuters): Oman's Central Bank has advised banks in the sultanate to stop unwarranted speculative dealing in foreign exchange futures, the Central Bank president said.

"Banks have been responding to requests from clients to take positions. This had gone to such an extent that it had become unwarranted," bank president Abdul Wahab Khayyat said in a telephone interview today.

The president said he wanted to stress that the bank continued to encourage currency transactions for all trade-related, or any other normal bank business of

income, and expenditure flows, at the discretion of the banks.

"The bank's policy is not to interfere," he said.

But the bank had called in bank managers to a lengthy meeting on Monday because it wanted to protect the interests of depositors, which it felt were being threatened by dealing for speculative profits on the currency futures markets.

"This includes currency options, forwards, and futures proper," he said.

Commercial bankers at the bigger Oman banks said they agreed that some currency dealing had got out of hand.

"Some banks had not even been asking their customers for margins," said one banker, referring to the proportion of the value of the deal that customers wishing to trade on any futures market are usually obliged to put up as a security.

Bankers said some severe losses over the past month due to recent heavy swings in the international foreign exchange markets seemed to have prompted the bank's warning.

"The bank has been positive. What it's saying is that for the sake of say 100,000 rials profit on speculative transactions,

you are putting many times that amount of money at risk," said another local banker.

Oman banks are tiny compared with the big players in the international currency markets, making them more exposed. "We are not Japanese or American banks," said one bank manager.

To accommodate the desire of operators to speculate, the Central Bank said it will issue licences for firms specifically geared to such business, capitalised at 1.6 million rials (\$4.1 million) but banks will not be allowed more than five per cent of any individual firm.

GIB arranges \$50 million for Pakistan

MANAMA, Bahrain, Dec 5, (AP): Gulf International Bank, a Bahrain-based institution owned by the seven Arab states of the Gulf, announced today it has arranged a \$50 million loan to finance Pakistan's rice exports.

The one-year loan, signed in Karachi earlier yesterday, carried an annual interest of three-quarters of a percentage point over the London Interbank Offered Rate, the announcement said.

The borrower is the Rice Export Corp. of Pakistan and the loan is guaranteed by the State Bank of Pakistan, GIB said.

"The loan's lead managers are GIB and Commercial Bank of Kuwait, as well as Habib Bank Ltd. and the Arab Banking Corp. which are also based in Bahrain."

Aspisp opening session lauded

AN ordinary session of the board of directors of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (Aspisp) was commenced in Dubai yesterday under the high patronage of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, UAE minister of finance and industry.

Aspisp chairman Talal Abu-Ghazaleh addressed the opening session and lauded the host country for its positive support of joint Arab action groups. He then reviewed recent socio-economic and political developments on the global scene and their impact on Arab societies. He said that an era of closer co-operation between nations will soon be with us and that tremendous Arab potentials are expected to be set in motion and would enable the Arab world to play a significant role given the formidable economic blocs that are now taking shape.

Then an account of Aspisp's achievements over the past three years was given. It was pointed out that Aspisp intends to compile all legislation in respect of industrial property protection in the Arab World into an encyclopedia like set for the benefit of professionals, scholars and research workers. Aspisp's professional journal entitled "Protection of Industrial Property" continued to be published for the second year running.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 5 (Reuters): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2921	0.2936
Sterling	0.4655	0.4665
DM	0.1652	0.1665
S.F.	0.1549	0.1562
F.F.	0.04582	0.04678
Y.F.	0.0022516	0.0022621
Y.F.	0.0020991	0.0021085
Y.F.	0.0020991	0.0021085
Y.F.	0.0020991	0.0021085
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EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.010
Sri Lankan rupee	7.510
Pakistani rupee	14.010
Bangladesh taka	9.130
US dollar	29.725
Pound sterling	46.675
UAE dirham	0.8090
Deutsche mark	1.6655
Japanese yen	162.0750

Bush announces several initiatives for the Soviets

Efforts to revamp an ailing economy

WASHINGTON, Dec 5, (AP): US economists and business leaders expressed general support yesterday for President George Bush's offers to help Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev bring the Soviet Union into the world economy.

"One should be cautious, but there are great hopes and optimism that a new era is dawning," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co.

Dwayne O. Andreas, chief executive of the agricultural giant, Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., said that "unleashing the forces of free enterprise can't be anything but beneficial."

The analysts were asked their views of Bush's statements and actions of recent days in connection with the superpower summit conference in Malta and his offers to help Gorbachev's efforts to revamp an ailing economy.

Even though Bush has been lending encouragement, he told a

news conference in Brussels on Monday that chances are "slim and none" that Gorbachev would be invited to join the world's seven largest industrial democracies at their economic summit meeting next July.

Bush said Soviets need to do much more to reform their government-controlled economic system before they could be considered for inclusion in the annual economic summit attended by the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

The next meeting is scheduled for early July in Houston. Gorbachev had sent a letter to the world leaders at last summer's meeting in Paris, expressing interest in incorporating the Soviet Union into the world economy.

Bush said that what was most important now was for communist countries trying to transform their economies to get expertise in how market-based systems

work. "We have got to understand (Gorbachev's) dilemma. They have not had a market economy," Bush said. "It is important that not just the Soviet Union but other countries in the dynamism of the economic systems that join... (the seven economic summit) countries together."

At the weekend meeting with Gorbachev, Bush announced several initiatives for the Soviets. He pledged to remove high US tariffs levied on Soviet imports once the Soviets approve legislation allowing free emigration.

He also promised to support observer status for the Soviet Union in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the 97-member international organization that governs world trade.

Observer status would not automatically entitle the Soviet Union to various favourable trade concessions granted full

GATT members, but it would provide Soviet officials with first-hand knowledge of the deliberations occurring in the organization.

The United States had previously opposed Soviet requests for observer status, maintaining that the Soviet system was incompatible with GATT's free-trade principles. Andreas said that Bush's promise to lower tariffs on Soviet goods following approval of the liberalised emigration law should foster reciprocal actions by the Soviets to purchase more American goods, including agricultural products.

Before the trade restrictions imposed by President Jimmy Carter in retaliation for the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, American farmers supplied 70 per cent of the agricultural products imported by the Soviet Union. The US share of the Soviet agricultural market is now 45 per cent.

Rich should help the hungry: OECD

Emergency food aid vital

PARIS, Dec 3, (Reuters): Official aid to the world's poorest countries should concentrate less on delivering food packages and more on giving the hungry the means to support themselves, the OECD said in a report released on Wednesday.

Emergency aid in the form of food for the starving in such countries as Ethiopia and Sudan remain vital, the Paris-based think-tank's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) said in its 1989 report.

But rich nations needed to be more attentive to the plight of the 700 million people in the world who do not eat enough to lead a productive life, the committee of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development added.

"Most of the 700 million are not hungry because of drought or civil war. Most are hungry in a much less dramatic way because they lack assets and employment," the DAC said.

These people go hungry even when food is available on local markets because they have

no means of buying it.

"At bottom, the most important single action donors could take to reduce hunger would be to support developing country strategies to increase agricultural production and... to increase income in rural areas," the DAC said.

It said direct feeding had emotional appeal but was appropriate only in emergencies or for the unemployable, while the alternative strategy advocated in the report met the criteria for sustainable development.

"It is a hunger strategy, an agricultural strategy and... an economic strategy," it said.

"It puts people to work, including the landless. It creates capital and helps develop a financial infrastructure. It supports an efficient production process. It creates a healthy, dynamic synergy between rural and urban areas."

The report insisted on the importance of improving growth rates in agriculture and infrastructure in farming areas because such a large part of national income in most develop-

ing countries was generated in this sector.

It called for a more ambitious scale for development projects and a "democratisation" of aid, meaning resources in education, health and other fields should not be directed at the "urban-privileged" but at the whole population.

Development aid must aim to get all the people participating in production, to give a fairer share-out of benefits.

The DAC consists of the EEC Commission plus all OECD nations except Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

The report said DAC members provided about \$48 billion in development aid in 1988, slightly more than 85 per cent of all concessional aid provided by sovereign nations.

Only Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden exceeded the United Nations target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national product in aid, it noted. France contributed 0.72 per cent, if aid to its own overseas territories was included.

We are under constant pressure: delegate

Cocom watchdog ponders role

PARIS, Dec 5, (Reuters): Cocom, the Western body which has policed technology exports to the communist world since 1949, is wondering if the recent upheavals in Eastern Europe will make it obsolete.

"When a key Cocom member like West Germany is talking about literally moving in with a country on the outlaw list (East Germany), something's got to give," said one delegate to the Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom).

But Western diplomats say that, despite mounting pressure from Western businessmen and politicians eager to open borders, the secretive Paris-based organisation will have to keep its guard up as long as the Warsaw Pact exists.

Cocom, grouping all Nato members except Iceland, as well as Japan and Australia, has monitored exports to the East bloc since 1949.

These days the committee's weekly meeting in a draft annex of the US embassy in Paris debate how to respond best to moves towards democracy in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

In the past, the same sessions were spent assessing the military potential to communist countries of Western computers, microchips and machine tools.

"We're looking very seriously at how to respond,

We're scheduled to find a response by next May but if the world keeps moving at this pace we're going to look very slow indeed," one Paris-based Cocom delegate said.

"We're under constant pressure now from the press and our governments," he added.

But another delegate cautioned that the democratic credentials of countries wanting to import Western technology were not the only thing Cocom had to consider.

"It isn't a question of giving brownie points for good behaviour but of assessing strategic threat," he said.

Last July, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev publicly called for Cocom's abolition, in a speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Since then, the leaderships of Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have changed beyond recognition.

Speaking before the December 2-3 superpower summit in Malta, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said: "You will find the United States and hopefully our allies prepared to recognise that we have to adjust Cocom and our whole concept of technology transfer to the East to the new realities."

Despite high-profile buys, New York isn't 'little Japan'

NEW YORK, Dec 5, (AP): Recent Japanese purchases in Manhattan have made some people nervous, despite a foreign-buyer tradition that started when Dutch settlers snapped up the island for \$24 worth of knives, fabric and trinkets.

Officials say a majority of Manhattan's buildings still are owned by Americans, and Japanese are not even in the largest foreign landlords. Some find the alarm over Japanese purchases puzzling.

"I don't know what's behind this xenophobia," said Rosemary Scanlon, an economist for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. "Everyone seems to have been jolted awake to find we're

not the only large economy in the world." Several organisations have tried to estimate foreign holdings in Manhattan commercial real estate, but no one really knows the figure, said Edwards S. Gordon, head of the real estate firm that bears his name.

"When a foreigner buys a piece of property, he doesn't declare. I'm a foreigner," said Marie Hill, a researcher for the Real Estate Board of New York.

"The owner's name may be Piccadilly Properties, but there's no legislation requiring them to sign in as British."

Foreign investments often are made through part ownerships, joint ventures and convertible mortgages, which can

further cloud an owner's identity. "On a mortgage the address might simply say 'return to Curacao,'" said Hill.

When Mitsubishi Estate Co. announced in October it was spending \$846 million for a controlling interest in the company that owns Rockefeller Centre, local wits said sumo wrestlers would soon take over the centre's ice skating rink.

But, noted Hill, "the British and the Dutch have been buying in this country for a long, long time."

"For all the publicity, the amount of foreign-owned real estate here is still pretty modest," said Scanlon. "It's not such a big deal."

According to the Port Authority, dur-

ing the past 15 years foreigners have acquired about 64 million of Manhattan's 335 million square feet of prime office space, or 19 per cent. This includes Canadians (7.3 per cent), Japanese (5.4 per cent), British (2.7 per cent) and Dutch (1.4 per cent). Other foreigners have bought more than 2 per cent.

The city's largest single foreign landowner is Olympia and York of Toronto, which began buying in the depressed market of the mid-1970s and now owns about 25 million square feet (3.5 million square metres) of office space.

Since 1986, Japanese investors have jumped into commercial real estate, snapping up the Exxon, Citicorp, Mobil,

ABC and Paine Webber Buildings. They also bought hotels, including the Algonquin, the Stanhope, the Inter-Continental and the Essex House.

But they have been even more active elsewhere. In 1988, when Japanese investors bought \$8.3 billion in US real estate, twice as much of that was in California as in New York state.

More than half the office buildings in downtown Los Angeles are foreign owned, according to the real estate firm of Cushman and Wakefield. Even in Atlanta, a city that was never a magnet for foreign investment, 12 per cent of the office space is owned by foreigners, and some experts say that could rise to 50 per cent by the year 2000.



Training programme

In a drive "to put their customer first", visiting speaker Justin Pannell from British Airways gave a lecture at the Kuwait International Hotel on how, by putting their customer first, British Airways has become the most profitable airline in the world. Pannell, manager of the Customer First programme said, "by asking both your customers and your staff how they would like to be treated, is such a basic question that most companies forget to ask it". The seminar was attended by senior executives of the KHC Corporate Office and hotel managers, as well as department heads of the units the company is presently operating. Justin Pannell conducting the Customer First training programme at KHC.

5-year plan realistic, not ambitious: Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, Dec 5, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said his country will push non-oil exports, attract private investment and revive idle industries in a bid to resuscitate the economy, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying a five-year economic plan launched last March was not ambitious but realistic.

The plan is to be debated in the Iranian Parliament, or Majlis, in the near future, the agency reported.

It said Rafsanjani's comments came in a meeting yesterday with his 22-member cabinet and a number of Majlis deputies.

Rafsanjani said his plan is based on the assumption that current oil prices of around \$18 a barrel will remain constant or go higher.

He said that potential non-oil resources could be boosted even if oil prices fell.

Iran is dependent on oil for more than 98 per cent of its earnings.

Rafsanjani said that attracting private investment was an essential part of his economic plan, Irna reported.

It quoted him as saying that the recently revised stock exchange in Tehran would channel "dead" capital towards production.

Rafsanjani added that about 5,000 billion rials (\$625 billion), or eight times the country's annual budget, was locked up in unfinished projects, Irna reported.

It quoted Rafsanjani as saying that many bottlenecks and shortages could be relieved once these projects were completed.

During the five-year plan, the government will not owe anything to the Central Bank, and there would be no budget deficit, Irna quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

After Black Monday Britain blundered

LONDON, Dec 5, (Reuters): The British government misjudged the likely effects of 1987's "Black Monday" world stock market crash and took the financial brakes off at just the wrong moment, Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said yesterday.

The government had thought the October 1987 crash, which wiped billions off share values world-wide, would slow the British economy down, he said.

"We judged it would have a very substantial deflationary effect, and as a result of that... we relaxed monetary policy," he said in response to questions from parliament's treasury committee.

"In retrospect we relaxed it precisely at the moment when we should have made it more severe," he added.

Britain's present economic difficulties could also be traced back to the government's failure to realise the strength of economic growth in 1987 and 1988 and to a decision to delay tough restrictions on home loans last year, he said.

Strong consumer demand has pushed up the cost of living, increased the trade deficit to record levels and forced the government to double interest rates over the past 18 months in an attempt to bring down the rate of inflation.

Major did not blame his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, who resigned on October 26 in a row over economic policy with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Major said that as Lawson's deputy for two years, he had played his part in forming economic policy.

He said he did not anticipate a recession next year although economic forecasts of slower growth which he made last month might prove incorrect.

"The danger clearly of the forecasts being inaccurate is already there," he said.

Major said that in order to bring down inflation, currently running at an annual rate of 7.3 per cent, the government would have to keep monetary policy tight.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Dec 5	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	330	313	331
Alcan Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—	—
Arif Ab	—	—	—
Ashtok Ley	93	83	94
Asin Paint	203.75	205	208.50
Atlas Corp	44	44	46
Auto Corp	66	67	68
Nat Index	388.80	388.80	388.80
Bajaj Auto	352.50	356	357.50
Bar Rayon	695	682.50	692.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	191	191	186
BK Bond	110	109	111
Bur West	90	90	87.50
Canchare	—	—	—
Can Euka	3325	3325	3460
Index for 04/12	—	—	—
Can Spg	2610	2620	2710
Colson	188.75	188.75	190
Cromt Gr	—	700	650
DCM	13	14	13
Deep Fert	31	31.50	30.50
Dunlop	72.50	71.50	73.50
El Hosi	61	61	62
El Hosi	78	79	80
ESSE Index	712.00	712.50	725.50
Esilayer	112.50	113.50	116.25
Esar Spg	26.75	26.50	28
Food Spl	108.75	108.75	110
Forbes	51.25	48.75	51.25
Gar Poly	49.25	49.25	50
Gilind	37	37	101
GNFC	37	37	38
Grasim	119	118	119.50
Gides for 01/12	—	—	—
Gides Spg	51.85	51.50	50.75
GSFC	188.75	190	191.25
Guji Alid	75	73	76
Guji Henry	11	10	10.50
Hero Honda	19	18	19.50
Hind Ciba	1000	1020	1040
Hind Lever	108.50	108	107
Hind Cocos	136.25	140	140
Hind Metal	23	23	21.50
Hindaco	276.25	280	276.25
Hochst	1560	1570	1585
Ingersoll	227.50	230	230
ITC	66	65.80	66
Ind Org	49	48	49
Ind Rayon	88	95.50	88.50
Ind Synth	195	193.75	197.50
J.K. Syn	51	51	53
Kir Curn	65.50	66	68
KSB Pumps	192.50	190	195
L.E.T.	74	72.50	75
Lipson	172.50	165	172.50
Mad Coats	105	104	106
Mahindra	88	86	87.50
Mass Share	16.35	16.25	16.65
Mico	750	740	750
Milkfood	310	305	312.50
Modi	75	75	76
MRF Ltd	297.50	300	302.50
Muk Iron	132	132	134.50

Women still in the dark

Modern Africa

ENUGU, Nigeria, (Reuters): When Josephine Oniah's husband died her head was shaved, she was confined to a small room for a month-long period of mourning, obliged to sleep on the floor and wear the same clothes she had on when she was widowed.

"There was no way I could not have performed the traditional rites," said Oniah, a lawyer, senior magistrate and a respected female traditional chief, now living in retirement in her home town of Enugu, capital of Anambra state in eastern Nigeria.

Oniah's experience, now a ten-year-old memory, is mild compared with that of millions of women faced with customary practices in modern Africa, she and her colleagues in the Nigerian section of the International Federation of Women Lawyers told Reuters.

The federation, known by its Spanish acronym Fida, campaigns against the negative effects of customs which form part of an otherwise valuable cultural heritage.

"Only this year a Nigerian court ruled that a woman married under customary law was not only unable to inherit property but that she herself was inheritable property," said Stella Omiyi, president of Nigerian Fida.

wood and drawers of water, its farm hands and traders.

But they were denied education, skills and financial credit, and were burdened by their traditional role.

"No national development will be meaningful or thorough if women are not fully involved," Babangida said.

A team from the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, also in Nigeria this month, said progress was painfully slow.

"All over the world, people prefer sons to daughters," said Malika Ladjali, from Algeria.

"Little girls are weaned earlier, they are less likely to be given scarce protein, and more of them die."

To ensure virginity in a bride, girls are frequently married at puberty, often into polygamous homes. The result is a high incidence of childhood pregnancies with considerable risk to the still-growing mother.

Ensuring chastity is the reason frequently given for various forms of female circumcision performed on young girls or sometimes pregnant women in parts of virtually every African country, said IAC president Bernhane Ras-Work, from Ethiopia.

Islam and Christianity both give married women certain status but this is frequently undermined by traditional practices which still hold sway. Few women dare challenge them.

Illiterate, malnourished, performing endless, back-breaking labour while raising an average six children without the benefit of any modern amenities or health care, the majority of rural African women are denied advancement by a battery of traditions.

Apart from discrimination in inheritance and divorce, they face nutritional taboos which reserve the best food for men and boys, dangerous birth practices, child marriage and female circumcision.

There is growing concern about this among international bodies and African governments trying to mobilise Africa's 500 million people — more than half of them female — to build the continent's future.

Women comprise about 70 per cent of Africa's labour force and grow about 70 per cent of its food, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which held a conference on integrating women in development in Nigeria earlier this month.

"Women must be empowered and effectively mobilised," said Adebayo Adedeji, ECA's executive secretary.

Nigeria's President Ibrahim Babangida said women were, quite literally, Africa's hewers of

There are two common forms of the operation. With excision, the clitoris and surrounding tissue are cut away while infibulation also involves sewing up the vulva leaving only a tiny opening.

The practice is often carried out in unhygienic conditions with the risk of tetanus, infection, shock, and haemorrhage.

The young woman will be cut open just before her wedding night. Painful intercourse and frigidity often result.

Food taboos which deprive pregnant women of proteins such as eggs, meat and snails when they need them most, ignorance about delivery techniques, and too-frequent births due to social pressure favouring fertility, cause many birth complications, especially in young or circumcised women.

Ruptured uterus with tearing of the rectum or bladder as a result of obstructed labour is common, often turning the victim — if she survives — into a social outcast because of the incontinence which results.

Between two and six of every 1,000 African deliveries result in the death of the mother, compared with one in 10,000 in a prosperous European country such as Denmark, the ECA said.

Ras-Work of the IAC, which works to upgrade the skills of untrained traditional healers and birth attendants, said women tended to accept suffering as their lot in life. They had to be educated to value their own well-being.



Phil Collins, lead singer of Genesis.



Rock group Pink Floyd



Singer songwriter Paul McCartney.

Rockers out for a good cause at Knebworth

Biggest musical concert will be in aid of music therapy centre

IT will be the rock concert of the nineties rolling. There will be 11 hours of music from the biggest and brightest names in the industry and the audience could number a staggering 120,000.

Already signed up to perform at Knebworth on June 30 next year are Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, Phil Collins, Status Quo and Tears for Fears. Many others are set to join the line-up.

And like the great Live Aid concerts, the Knebworth gig is for an important cause. The organisers are hoping to raise £6 million, half of which will go to the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre.

The centre was the brainchild of Doctors Paul Nordoff and Clive Robbins, who believed learning to play music could help the handicapped even youngsters living in their own personal 'lost world'. There are now similar centres all over the world, and with the weekly sessions, children who were once thought to be beyond help are improving all the time.

But the school's reputation is growing at a rate too fast for it to handle. They need larger, purpose-built premises with better facilities with which to treat the ever-increasing numbers of handicapped children being referred to them.

Superstar Paul McCartney will be topping the bill next summer at Knebworth. His enthusiasm for the centre and its work runs deep.

Last year he played to a group of children at the London centre. He knew it was an audience that had no who he was and might not be greatly impressed by his efforts.

"I was pretty nervous about it all," he admitted. "There was always the possibility they would completely ignore me."

"There was a Down's Syndrome child, an autistic child and two disturbed kids. I sat on the floor with them."

"My fears were unfounded. As soon as I struck up the first guitar note, they were all over me. They came to life. And their parents were so happy to see them motivated and involved."

These children spend practically all their lives in worlds so simply cannot penetrate. But music has the power to cut

through the red tape of their minds.

"I don't know how music therapy works. I'd be a fool to pretend to. All I know is that it does work. For some reason music, which is essentially just a collection of vibrations, has the power to give you a tremendous lift."

"Part of the reason I'm doing Knebworth is because I'm a father. I'm very sensitive to my kids and their needs and when I see those parents at the centre, I think, 'there but for the grace of God go I...'"

Another musician who has become strongly involved with the centre is Curt Smith, one half of the pop duo Tears for Fears.

Curt has devoted the past four years to the centre and is one of the leading lights in organising the Knebworth extravaganza.

He said: "Any musician knows that the need to create comes from a deep desire to express emotions which are otherwise unexpressable."

"Imagine what it must be like to be a kid so handicapped that you are locked in a private world with so many emotions, fear and

anger.

"The only release available to these children is banging a drum. The only way they can express love is by softly playing a piano."

But Curt knows devotion to the cause is no help without money. That is why he is so excited about the number of stars who will join him on stage on June 30.

He said: "For the past 10 years we've raised £500,000 a year. But on June 30 we will make more money in that one day than we've made in the last decade. And that's just from ticket sales."

Sybil Beresford-Peirse, director of the Nordoff-Robbins Centre, explained how music is used to help mentally handicapped children. "We use the playing of music to draw the children into a shared activity. All the children act differently to the therapy, but all we want is a flicker or a sign of recognition from them and we know we are helping."

"Some of the children, whether mentally or physically handicapped, still have intelligent thoughts and feel doubly frustrated. So our lessons are designed to meet the individual

needs of each child.

"We're trying to build bridges of communication and make them feel part of what is happening around them. With one or two children, just the lifting of an eyelid can mean as much as banging on a drum."

"We know music has the means of reaching a child when possibly nothing else will. Music can facilitate a person's feelings, allow them to express their emotions. Sometimes you can make a relationship in music with a child who has no speech, and when that happens it is unmistakable."

But Nordoff and Robbins have their critics. Some therapists believe it is unkind to challenge brain-damaged children who are incapable of performing more than one action at a time. They claim that, by getting them excited, the therapy can make them even more disturbed.

Sybil does not believe that this is the case. "When we get a reaction like that, it shows we are breaking through," she said. "Their tempers are a lot more changeable than a normal child's."

"The music we play is improv-

ised. It is well-known that music can have a soothing effect, so we can change the tempo to meet the mood of the child and let him play within his limitations."

One child the centre has helped is brave Timothy, who suffers from a rare genetic disease which has left him partially-sighted, unable to walk and mentally handicapped.

But with the help of his family and music therapists, Timothy learned to walk and say "Hello", as well as beating out complicated rhythms on a drum.

When he first went for the music treatment, he was wheeled in, given music to listen to, and then wheeled out again. Now, he looks forward to his weekly lessons, races into the studio with the help of a special trolley, shouts "Hello" and thumps the drum as hard as he can.

Sybil said: "When Tim first came here, we encouraged him to walk by dangling a rope and bell from the ceiling. He had to pull himself up by the rope to ring the bell."

Tim has since learned to alter the timing and softness of his drum beats to suit the music.

Technology pace outstripping people's ability to adapt

LONDON, (Reuters): The symbol for technology at the decade's end is the video cassette recorder sitting in six out of 10 households in the Western world, its digital clock blinking away, unused.

The inability of so many consumers to set that clock represents the challenge facing the electronics industry at the dawn of the 1990s.

Technology innovators spent the past ten years astounding the world with machines that were ever smaller, faster, smarter and stronger. Now they have to come up with a reason for people to buy them.

Engineers and social scientists recognise that the pace of technological change has outstripped people's ability to adapt to it, and this awareness is creating a transportation in the way the electronics industry is approaching new research and development.

"Technology has to start coming towards the user," said Bob Taylor, director of strategy for Digital Equipment Corp's British operation.

"We have to look at the way people work and say, how can we help them do that better...if we do that, you will not even be able to predict all the things technology will bring about."

To help people "do things better," scientists and engineers are looking, not at ways to process more information faster, but ways to use the information already processed.

No one doubts that in the next decade a greater and more complicated number of things will be automated, but experts believe the emphasis will be on ease of use and practical applications.

All the buzzwords bandied about at electronics conferences — multimedia, voice recognition, personal communications, flat screen technology, document scanners — refer to technologies designed to make existing automation easier and information more accessible.

And the experts who coin such phrases say the cliché of the nineties will be "the information revolution."

The eighties saw "the computer revolution," a radical transformation in the way we live and work that started with the introduction in 1981 of International Business Machine (IBM) Corp's personal computer.

Built with off-the-shelf components, the first IBM PC brought computing power to the desktop, and even more significantly established standards in an industry previously divided into proprietary fiefdoms.

For the first time consumers could walk into a computer store anywhere in the world and buy identical software or add-on devices.

Entrepreneurs could literally start a computer company in their garage, and did. High school students could write their own programmes, office workers in New York could transmit spreadsheets to colleagues in Zurich, tiny grocers could automate their payrolls. Anybody with a PC and a printer could start a newsletter and become a consultant.

New industries were born, old industries were revolutionised and the typewriter and ledger book virtually disappeared. In 1982 Time magazine named the

Hi-tech poised to make major impact

Some emerging technologies that experts believe will make a major impact in the next decade.

Computers — hand-held computers are already available, and advances in flat screens, battery technology and ever-smaller memory chips could make the laptop-sized computer the standard by the mid-1990s, rather than bulky desktop models.

Artificial intelligence — should finally come into its own in the 1990s. Expert systems will diagnose patients, discover oil and tell you what screwdriver you need at the hardware store.

Multimedia — the combination of video, audio and computers, ultimately in one device that will merge the computer and the television set.

personal computer its "Man of the Year," the only time a human has failed to win that honour.

This year the personal computer entered its fourth generation, one of the fastest technology advances in history. Desktop computers are as powerful today as the room-filling mainframes of 20 years ago and hand-held computers are more powerful than that first IBM PC.

Now what? Ask the users. Thousands of computers and other advanced machines are sitting in workplaces and homes around the world with only a fraction of their capabilities put to use.

As a result, computer sales slowed dramatically this year as corporations tried to come to grips with the billions of bytes they purchased over the past decade.

At the same time consumers are showing little enthusiasm for some of the more advanced gadgets available for the home — digital television sets, digital audio tape, personal fax machines and, of course, home computers.

IBM, the world's largest computer company, has perhaps more influence over technology than any other entity in the

Optical scanning — instead of typing a document into the computer, users will be able to run a scanner over anything — a handwritten note, a photograph, the Mona Lisa — and an exact replica will be transmitted to the data base.

Parallel processing — standard computer architecture uses one processor to work through each step of a mathematical problem sequentially. With parallel architecture each step is assigned to a separate processor and any number from two to several hundred processors work simultaneously. Already in use, but smaller chips and more sophisticated software will make it commonplace in the nineties, bringing very fast computing into general use.

Consumer electronics — High definition television — movie quality pictures on a television tube. Everybody's talking about it, nobody can agree on standards, and it will not be widely available, or affordable, until the end of the decade. Long before that most people will own a...

Digital television — a "smart" TV with computer chips inside that will improve the clarity of the picture and enable the viewer to watch two, four, even six channels at once.

Optical compact discs — CDs with pictures, alternatively laser discs. Expected to become increasingly popular as an important component of multimedia (see computers).

Smart houses — as computer chips come in everything from coffee makers to security systems, the homeowner of the future will be able to call home from the office and, using a push-button phone, turn on the oven set the video cassette recorder, regulate the heat, open the garage door and listen in on the kids.

Voice recognition — you name it, you'll be able to talk to it. Cars, lifts, appliances, computers will all respond to voice commands by the mid- to late-nineties.

Telecommunications — Mobile phones — will overtake the wired version as satellite technology is perfected.

Data transmission — the world's telephone companies should complete the installation of fibre optic networks and digital switching stations by the mid-1990s, and everything from data to moving pictures will be transferred over standard phone lines.

Picture phones — Japanese manufacturers predict that by the middle of the decade the technology will be available for videophones that can transmit colour, moving images simultaneously with voice at a price under \$500.

CD-ROM, hooked up to a personal computer and stereo speakers. Other versions like a laser disc, television screen and speakers.

Thus a computer can show full motion videotape with the same clarity as television, play stereo sound and display an encyclopedia's worth of text.

Users can skip through, say, a visual dictionary, choosing the word they want to learn, the film that depicts it, the audio pronunciation, and then delve even further, learning its linguistic roots or foreign translations as desired.

Ultimately, multimedia advocates envision the merger of computer and television into one device, which would finally create a reason for everyone to have a computer in the home.

Intel Corp and IBM are jointly developing a semiconductor chip called DVI, for digital video interactive, which would allow a standard computer screen to play full motion television pictures and sound. The first DVI chips are expected by 1991.

The computer industry is also pinning a lot of hope on increasingly sophisticated optical technology.

Recreating rainforest

Under glass and steel

ADELAIDE, Australia, (Reuters): Under a nine-story high canopy of steel and glass Australian botanists are planning to recreate a rainforest with the help of space technology and computers.

In the two hundred years since the first Europeans settled in Australia around 75 per cent of the continent's rainforest has been felled.

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens has built the largest conservatory in the Southern hemisphere — and the largest in the world outside Europe — to redress the balance and to educate Australians on the importance of rainforests.

"It's a wonderful state-of-the-art machine for creating plants," says Chris Steele-Scott, marketing officer for the gardens.

"It should delight people and teach them how important it is to preserve what's left of the world's rainforest."

The conservatory, opened earlier this month, was chosen as the South Australian city's contribution to last year's nationwide celebrations of 200 years of European settlement.

Local architect Guy Maron spent 7.2 million dollars (\$5.4 million) constructing the slim glasshouse, which resembles a stretched version of the Sydney Opera House's "sail" roofs.

The steep pitch of the 27-metre (90 feet) high roof helps reflect the sun during Adelaide's hot summers while sensors on the inside of the roof regulate the light, temperature and humidity within the building.

Computer-guided windows control air flow while more than 1,000 nozzles in the roof provide humidity, cloud cover and ensure the temperature stays within the required 16 to 33 degree Celsius (60 to 90 degree Fahrenheit) range.

In an emergency the nozzles, developed by the US

space agency Nasa, can achieve complete water vapour "white-out" within the conservatory in three minutes. Two boilers will provide heat in cold weather.

Flexible rubber joints between the sheets of roof glass also act as gutters for rainwater which will be filtered three times to kill off bacteria before being used in the building.

"It's a very clever building in its efficient use of technology and takes the science of botanical gardens a step further," said John Simmons, curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London, who was present at the opening.

The conservatory, the largest in the world outside Kew and Frankfurt, is landscaped to simulating an undulating rainforest, with the floor covered with two metres (six feet) of rich soil. Only plants from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island will be used.

"We thought it appropriate to address local conservation issues which is unusual because most conservatories try and show plants from all over the world," said Steele-Scott.

Australia was once part of the great supercontinent known as Gondwana. By the time Australian continent severed its last links with Gondwana by breaking away from Antarctica 50 million years ago, rainforests covered much of the land.

Plant fossils show the small areas of rainforest that remain in Australia are remnants of this ancient vegetation. Less than 0.1 per cent of Australia's 7.69 million square kilometres (three million square miles) now supports rainforest.

Tough pioneer plants and palm trees have been planted in the conservatory's soil and are expected to give a canopy of shelter within a short while.



Adelaide botanic garden

Chris Steele-Scott, marketing officer for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, stands amongst the plants in the conservatory, the largest in the southern hemisphere. Australian botanists plan to recreate a rain-

forest with the help of Nasa know-how and computer technology under the nine storey high envelope of steel and glass. (Reuters wirephoto)

St Tropez gets earnest

Image-change sought

ST TROPEZ, France, (Reuters): St Tropez, summer playground for the international jet-set since French film star Brigitte Bardot made it her home 30 years ago, wants to be taken seriously.

Recently-elected mayor Alain Spada is determined to give his town a less frivolous reputation. He has promised to maintain the resort's traditional provincial character and stop indiscriminate development.

Before the world of show-business discovered its charms in the late 1950s St Tropez was a picturesque fishing port, appreciated by artists and writers, basking in the year-round Mediterranean sun.

Then the wealthy sun-seekers brought with them the inevitable hordes of photographers and onlookers hoping to catch a glimpse of stars featured on the front covers of the world's glossy magazines.

On the shady terraces of the fashionable restaurants and at crowded cafes whose tables spilled out onto the pavements, sun-glasses failed to hide famous faces.

British actor Michael Caine, American singer and actress Liz Minelli and Monaco's Princess Caroline were all regulars.

Eventually those who came to look outnumbered those who came to stay.

St Tropez's permanent population, normally around 6,000, is falling as the influx of rich outsiders pushes up the price of housing. In summer the figure explodes to around 80,000, causing massive traffic jams and packed pavements.

The contrast with winter, when the medieval paved streets are deserted, most of the restaurants, bars and luxury boutiques closed and the port boasts only a few splendid yachts, could not be starker.

The situation provoked an angry outburst this summer from the town's most famous resident, Brigitte Bardot, who for the past

few years has turned her back on the public and devoted her life to defending animal rights, lost her temper.

She said she was fed up with being awakened by loud-speakers from tourist boats blaringly pointing out her residence. "La Madrugue". She had even surprised people on her property stealing whatever they could find as souvenirs.

The last straw was a clumsy attempt by a municipal policeman to remonstrate with her for walking her 15 dogs on the beach. In a virulent letter to the mayor, she announced her intention of leaving Saint-Tropez for good. "I abandon the place to the invaders," Bardot wrote.

Mayor Spada, whose team won the municipal elections in March after a tough campaign, agrees with Bardot that the town needs cleaning up.

"We want to improve the quality of life, but we refuse development on a massive scale," Spada told Reuters.

He is at present engaged in a battle to buy from the French Defence Ministry the 16th-century citadel which dominates the town. He plans to create an archaeological museum, within its walls and install a 1,500-seat open-air theatre for open-air ballet performances on its rocky slopes.

The town's image remains attractive to the big spenders, as well as the queers who just want to observe them. I don't agree with those who say it's better to have open-air theatres than 1,000 tourists who spend money. You have to find a balance between the two."

Spada's opponent and predecessor, Jean-Michel Couve, had another vision of St Tropez, and was accused by many of wanting to turn it into the "Las Vegas" of the Riviera.

Couve's attempt to launch an international video-festival was a flop.

Many firms want to replace men with robots

Not so luxurious life on a North Sea oil platform

OSEBERG OIL PLATFORM, North Sea, (Reuters): May Osmundsen nonchalantly looks after the first plants and flowers to grow here since the North Sea formed millions of years ago.

Tropical ivy, ferns and rubber plants in large pots help spin a fragile illusion that a monolithic oil platform in icy, heaving seas more than 100 km (60 miles) off Norway is a good place to live.

"I just treat them like plants back on the mainland. I water them and wash the leaves," said Osmundsen, 41, adding with a smile. "Sometimes I talk to them to help them grow."

Many oil workers rate Oseberg as the most luxurious place in the North Sea — completed in 1988 at a cost of around \$3.9 billion, it was planned before the 1986 crash in oil prices slashed companies' budgets.

Platforms planned since are more spartan. Many firms are looking to robots to take over from humans.

In the restaurant, oil workers in designer clothes dine from a vast buffet — smoked salmon, steaks, expensive French cheeses and exotic fruits. Immaculate yellow and red chrysanthemums stand on every table and a bright mural adorns the wall.

In free time, workers can use the gymnasium, indoor basketball court, pool tables, sauna, library or watch films in the cinema or eight-channel television in each tiny bedroom.

A professional gardener visits occasionally by helicopter to give advice to Osmundsen and others in the catering sector who help her tend the plants. A priest also pays flying visits.

"There's nothing from home you lack living out here — except alcohol," said Svein Harald Riise, Oseberg's administrative superintendent.

Alcohol is banned from all North Sea platforms because of the danger of accidents. Smokers can only light up in a few rooms at Oseberg, named after a Viking longship.

Almost 500 people have been killed in North Sea accidents since drilling began in the 1960s. The world's worst offshore disaster occurred when the Piper Alpha platform exploded in the British sector last year, killing 167 men.

Oseberg comprises two platforms linked by a 100 metre (110 yards) gangway, thereby separating the most dangerous drilling area from the living quarters.

The huge main living room could be from a smart hotel

except that the architect bizarrely designed it with a huge fireplace which cannot be used of the hazard of explosions. Also, the lights sway slightly from the ceiling — an unerving reminder that the room is perched on concrete stilts almost 200 metres (650 feet) above the seabed.

Seventy-four of the 320 people at Oseberg, which is 65 per cent owned by Norwegian state oil company Statoil and operated by Norway's Norsk Hydro Company, are women. Many personnel have families on the mainland.

All work grueling 12-hour shifts, starting either at seven in the morning or seven at night.

But Norwegian oil workers get high pay and most work for two weeks followed by three weeks off, two weeks on and four off before starting over again. On British platforms, workers spend longer in the North Sea — two weeks working then two off.

"We're really not that much better off than the British," said acting platform manager Odd Bye at a table in the restaurant as some workers ate camembert and grapes. They get holidays as well as normal time off. We don't."

One step outside the living quarters shatters any idea that oil workers may be going soft.

"You're lucky, it's quite good weather today," safety engineer Arnstein Becker told reporters on a recent visit as snow and hail gusted across the platform and the grey sea churned below.

"I'm not joking — once the wind was so strong everyone had to crawl as they would have been blown into the sea if they stood up," he added. In mid-winter, daylight shortens to around seven hours.

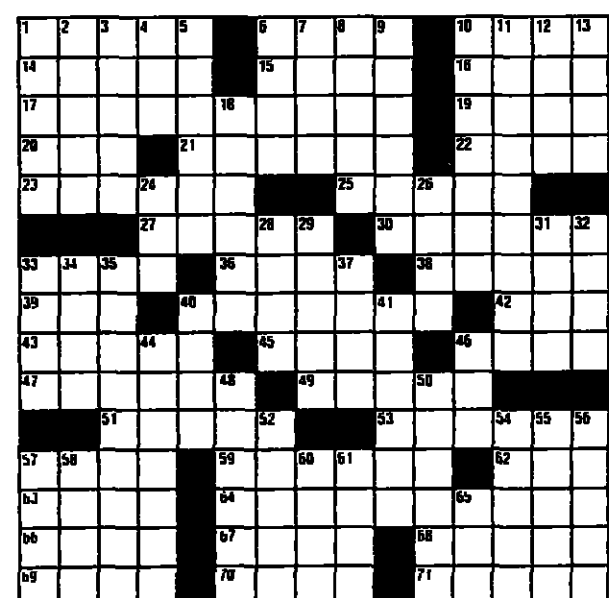
All workers outside wear bright orange overalls, protective hats, glasses and ear plugs.

On the drilling platform, dominated by huge steel drums, pipes and valves, nine wells plunge into the sea, eventually fanning out into the oil reservoir 2.5 km (1.6 miles) below.

The oil — around 280,000 barrels a day (BPD) — comes up hot at around 85 degrees Centigrade (185 Fahrenheit) and is pumped to the mainland. Oseberg is expected to keep producing until 2020, said Ole Roenning, Norsk Hydro's operations chief at Oseberg.

Oil was formed from plants and animals crushed by sediments laid down millions of years ago, long before the land sank and flooded to form the North Sea.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Nyborg natives
 - 6 Flivver
 - 10 Anglo-Saxon poet
 - 14 Condo or coop
 - 15 Pond life
 - 16 Account
 - 17 Artisan of a kind
 - 19 Jason's craft
 - 20 Poor Clare
 - 21 Purpose
 - 22 Team of horses
 - 23 Tristram Shandy's author
 - 25 Rib
 - 27 Type type
 - 30 Saturate
 - 33 Droop-nosed flyers, for short
 - 36 Massenet contemporary
 - 38 — nous
 - 39 Attention
 - 40 Goes for glory
 - 42 —
 - 43 Heldenleben Strauss
 - 45 Song of joy
 - 46 Red giant or white dwarf
 - 47 Planets
 - 49 In
 - 51 Khscha on violin
 - 53 Drops a bundle
 - 57 Wedge, for 17 Across
 - 59 South American, for one
 - 62 W. in old English
 - 63 A Chaplin
 - 64 Supply depot for builders
 - 66 Eden dweller
 - 67 The — Love Belongs
 - 68 Tend
- DOWN**
- 1 Daily beginnings
 - 2 More or less
 - 3 Nary a soul
 - 4 Educator's deg.
 - 5 Mrs. Ross's claim to fame
 - 6 "Manhattan" lyrics
 - 7 Sommer of films
 - 8 Intermediary
 - 9 Split
 - 10 Harold from Minnesota
 - 11 See 17 Across
 - 12 Gymnast
 - 13 Korbut
 - 14 Hard worker
 - 15 Ryan and Tatum
 - 16 Aphrodite's lover
 - 18 Gregory Hines needs these
 - 19 Top-drawer
 - 20 Corn holder
 - 21 Rhode Island Reds
 - 22 Part of a clan
 - 23 Mosel feeder
 - 24 Upper limits of arboreal growth
 - 25 Verbalized
 - 26 Clause connectors
 - 27 Stoat in winter
 - 28 Abnormal occurrence
 - 29 Single
 - 30 Cowardly
 - 31 Dresses up
 - 32 Health club feature
 - 33 In the know
 - 34 To the point
 - 35 Over
 - 36 Daily
 - 37 TV lare
 - 38 Knight of the road
 - 39 Feds
 - 40 Footnote notation
 - 41 Gary Cooper comment

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PIKE CREAM SHIE
ARENA LIME SKID
SKYSCRAPER PYLE
OIS TIROS OIJON
BODES PACIA
DESIRE TERRACES
ARKS MELON KEA
LAYETTE MAISTERS
EST USERS IIRIS
SERENADE DORSEY
OMER STONE
BLOBS STOID LAE
RIPPE SKYWRITING
AGER PILE TWANG
TOR APED ORES

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ODDS CAN BE MISLEADING

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 6 4
♥ 7 6
♦ 6 3 2
♣ K Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 9
♥ Q J 10 8 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ 9 8 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8
♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 5 3 2
♥ A K
♦ K 8 5
♣ A J 7

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Be wary of telling anyone how to play a suit combination. What is the percentage play in one suit alone could be completely wrong when taken in the context of the hand as a whole.

As an example, consider the trump suit on this hand in isolation. The best chance to avoid a spade loser, by a small margin, is to cash the high trumps ("Eight ever, nine never"). Now let's look at the combined North-South assets.

North-South have arrived at four

spades after a normal auction and West has led the queen of hearts. Declarer has six sure tricks in the side suits, so he needs only four trump tricks to make his game. Is there any threat to the contract?

Yes. If East gains the lead to push a diamond through the king, declarer is in danger of losing three tricks in that suit.

Forewarned that the normal approach could lead to defeat should steer you to the right line of play. The only suit where East can gain the lead is trumps, so declarer must plan the campaign to keep East off lead. There is a simple way to accomplish that.

Win the king of hearts, cross to the king of spades and lead another spade. When East produces a low trump, finesse the jack! That's an anti-percentage play, but it guarantees the contract. If West produces the lady, you have lost a trick unnecessarily, but you are in complete control. You win any return and take your 10 tricks.

Should the cards lie as in the diagram, the safety play in trumps is necessary to deliver the contract. Had you cashed the king-ace of trumps, East would be able to ruff the third club and shoot the jack of diamonds through, resulting in a one-trick set.



"You know what they say, 'Two can starve as cheaply as one.'"

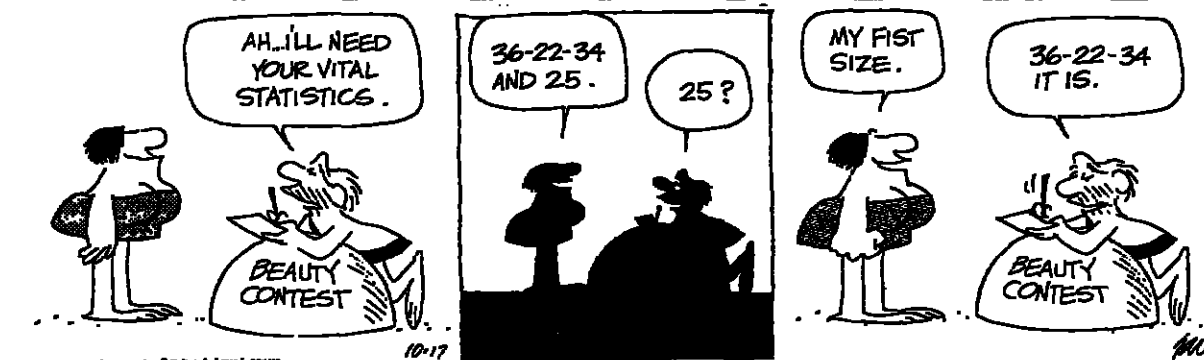
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Grant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 21 - April 18)</p> <p>Something you had been expecting will turn out better than you had hoped. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 18. You will be able to do a friend a favour. Do not delay having something electrical repaired. Be cordial.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>Something you have been assiduously learning will now become a little easier. Try not to become embroiled in what does not really concern you. And try also to involve yourself more with what does concern you.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)</p> <p>You are more liable to catch cold and should try to keep out of the way of infection. And do not drop your standards of cleanliness. Make sure you eat a balanced diet without too many sweet things. Be a little more abstemious.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You should try to avoid getting into a bad habit before it is too late. Make sure you get all the rest you need, and just a little more regular exercise. Do not expect others to behave just like you would like them to be. Be firm.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>An infection however, slight should not be neglected. Whilst you may have some good luck do not rely upon it. Avoid making a lot of noise where it might be annoying. Be as good as your word.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</p> <p>You are somewhat give to exaggeration and you should try to refrain and restrain yourself. Avoid saying anything that could well give offence. You should not expect something for nothing. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>Something that has been taking you ages will now speed up because you are becoming more proficient. You should not take any risks where your health and finances are concerned.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You have no need to feel diffident just now, you have done better than anyone would have thought possible. Once again hard work will be rewarded. Try not to become too isolated.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will have to try to use just a little more commonsense. Something you had been looking forward to will prove to be a bit of a disappointment. You should make sure you do not waste any time. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</p> <p>Remember that everything takes just that much longer to do than you thought it would. Try not to take on more commitments than you can cope with. And do your best to avoid wasting time. Be generous.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>There is a lot to do, but just get on with it without always thinking about what remains to be done. And do not be afraid to try new ways of doing things. However, no changes just for the sake of change. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</p> <p>Not everything is to your liking, but concentrate on those things that are. And do not expect more than you deserve. You will be more lucky than anyone else right now and you should watch out for snags. Be less obstinate.</p>

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Leonard seeks self-satisfaction

Duran wants more credit

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Dec 5, (Agencies): Roberto Duran says the American public should give him more credit for winning four world titles and stop talking about his "no mas" fight against Ray Leonard nine years ago.

Duran can win his fifth world title when he faces World Boxing Council super middleweight champion Leonard Thursday night at the Mirage Hotel and Casino.

Duran says his 85-7 record over a 21-year career and his status as perhaps the greatest lightweight ever should be enough to overshadow his quitting in the eighth round of his Nov 25, 1980 bout against Leonard in New Orleans.

"I'm one of the greatest fighters of all time," said Duran, a 38-year-old Panamanian. "I fought all of the best and here (the United States) they never give me credit. After New Orleans, I won two titles and people keep bringing up 'no mas'."

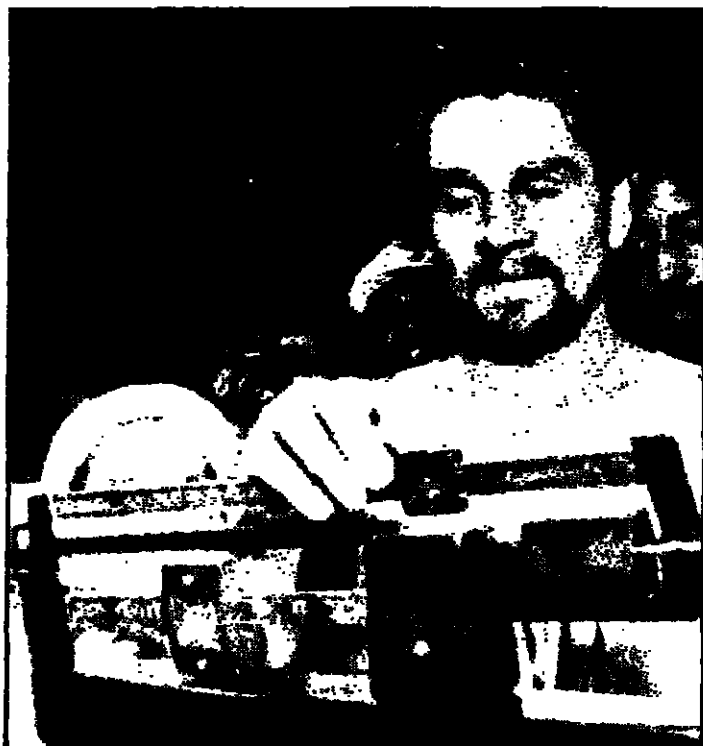
"I always had faith in myself and knew deep down we would fight again. He wasn't going to retire that way."

Fittingly, Duran turned to a fellow Panamanian for help on the road back to his rubber match against Leonard. Carlos Hibbard, a 41-year-old former New York taxi driver, met Duran when the champion was singing in a night club in November of 1986. Duran had lost to Robbie Sims five months earlier, he weighed 218 pounds (99 kg) and seemed finished as a serious contender.

"After every fight, Roberto blew up," said Hibbard, who had some experience training boxers and kick-boxers. "This was a guy who had it all and also blew it all. He was depressed."

"I told him I knew how to get the weight off and how to get him in shape. In the Robbie Sims fight, he looked like they just dragged him through the mill. He looked worked over."

Duran says he gives Hibbard "100 percent" credit for his win-



Duran checks his weight under watchful eyes during a workout. (Reuters wirephoto)

ning six fights since, including a 12-round decision over Iran Barkley for the WBC middleweight crown in January.

Duran says, as important the Barkley fight was, it did not match his first title bout.

"Ken Buchanan's still my greatest fight," Duran said of his 13th-round knockout to win the world lightweight crown in 1972. "That was the first time I fought for a title and won a title."

He since has won titles in the welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight divisions. But he is respected most as a 135-pound (61-kg) champion.

"He's the best lightweight ever," said Alexis Arguello, a former lightweight, featherweight and junior lightweight champion. "Ahead of Benny Leonard."

"Duran's probably the best lightweight ever," agreed

for all of his work to get in shape.

"I'm hungry now," said Duran. "I want a big steak, with eggs and ham. Leonard going to be that steak."

Each fighter sparred three rounds yesterday. For Leonard, it was his first public workout for the bout and his first at the Mirage. He had been working at a nearby gym.

"I've minimized my distractions," Leonard said. "That's why I trained in a gym rather than a ballroom."

Duran has his way, Leonard will have to go to the circus to see the clowns.

Duran was asked after a workout how he would react if Leonard put on one of his patented clowning acts when the two fight.

"He can do what he wants," Duran said through an interpreter. "But to beat Roberto Duran, he's going to have to fight. I came to Las Vegas to fight."

"I'm a fighter not a clown. The clowns are in the circus."

It was Leonard's clowning and Duran's embarrassment over it that is generally seen as the big reason Duran quit in the eighth round of their second fight in 1980.

There is little reason to suspect that Leonard, a 2-1 favourite to win on Thursday, will not taunt Duran again with his clown's repertoire.

The act includes winding up with one arm and then flicking out a slap with the other hand, mugging with his head outstretched, daring Duran to hit him, a fast shuffle with his feet and generally playing to the crowd.

Duran looked a lot better in his sparring session yesterday than at his last outing on Saturday. But almost anything would have been better, compared to his zombie-like approach to his work then.

Self-satisfaction is the beacon that will beckon to Leonard when he resumes his rivalry with Duran.

"This fight means so much,

not for the people, the public or the critics," said Leonard.

"I am my own worst critic. This fight here is a motivating fight because I'm almost written off as being over the hill."

Win or lose, Leonard said yesterday, "this could be my last fight."

If he retires, something he's done three times, it will be done without fanfare. "You just won't see me in the ring anymore," he said.

"I'm frustrated," Leonard gave as his reason for contemplating retirement. "It's not boxing, but there are a lot of little things."

He's tired of hearing that "I'm just fighting for money." He is guaranteed \$15 million for fighting Duran and will have made about \$54 million in his last four bouts.

"It's a business," said Leonard, but it's the challenges that have kept him going.

Leonard contends, however, that media reports put the focus on the economic side by constantly questioning the credentials of his opponents.

"The media try and find a way to tarnish these guys, calling them senior citizens or bad fighters," Leonard said.

In his last fight, a rematch against Thomas Hearns on June 12, Leonard was a heavy favourite and generally was expected to win by knockout because Hearns' legs and chin were considered highly questionable.

Leonard, who was twice knocked down, had to win the last round (by two points on one card) to get a 12-round draw.

Suddenly Leonard was being called a shot fighter.

"The question on me is whether I have legs or a chin anymore," he said. "I'm susceptible to right hand — they say."

Leonard also was knocked down by a right before knocking out Donny Lalonde in the ninth round Nov 7, 1988.

"The only way to find out if I'm a shot fighter is to fight again," Leonard said.



Leonard tapes his hands prior to a workout on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wind and dust fail to stop Little Leaguers

WIND and dust plagued the Kuwait Little League baseball games on Friday, but the teams never quit. The Rangers and Cardinals started the morning off with a beautiful hard-fought game. The Rangers had some fine hitting by Rusty Stombaugh with a triple and 1 RBI. The Rangers defense played some heads up ball. Second base man Kareem Nakshabendi caught a fly then tagged the base for a double play in the fifth inning.

The Cardinals had their share of hits. Ali Al Sakka had a double earning 1 RBI. Pitcher Paul Courboure caught a fly ball for the out but caught the Ranger runner at first for a double play in the second inning.

Then in the third, Tala Navaro caught a beautifully hit ball out in center field for the out. Way to go boys.

The Rangers were the victors. Rangers 5 Cardinals 4.

T-ball is so much fun to watch and the Cubs and Royals didn't let their fans down. Hitters for the Cubs were Ahmed Lahabli with 2 triples and 2 singles earning 7 RBIs. Tim Bender had a triple and 2 singles and earned 1 RBI. John Zafarani had a triple and 2 singles and earned 3 RBIs.

The Royals never gave up even as the score climbed against them. Big hitters for the Royals were E.J. with a double and 2 singles earning 1 RBI. Naseem Al Shaya with a double and a single earning 3 RBIs. At the end of 4 innings the Cubs 45 the Royals 11.

Next up were Mets and Blue Jays. The Blue Jays were looking for win. Bader Al Anzi and Ryan Williams were the only two runners to score for the Blue Jays. They both managed to steal around after getting on base with a walk.

The Mets were hitting a little better. Bassel Al Shamali had a double and Austin Kurowski had a triple and brought in 2 runs. The other scores all came from players walked to first. The final score Mets 16 Blue Jays 2.

The Orioles had a "good" day against the Dodgers. Khairy Abujaibin hit a home run in the second inning bringing in 2 runs. Amir Ghil had a double and a single earning 1 RBI. Justin Bollig had a nice double and brought in 2 runs.

The Dodgers Haider Basravi hit a single then a double and earned 1 RBI. James Riley had 2 singles and earned 2 RBIs.

The final score Orioles 18 Dodgers 7.

Results

T-Ball

27 Athletics

45 Royals

16 Blue Jays

5 Mariners

16 Blue Jays

8 Pirates

18 Dodgers

5 Cardinals

21 Red Sox

Home run hitters

John Toshimura

Noha Abdelaziz

Ahmed Al Wozayn

Khairy Abujaibin

Giants

Tigers

Orleans

ABC sues government

NEW YORK, Dec 5, (Reuters): The parent company of ABC television sued the US government yesterday for denying the network a license to televise the 1991 Pan Am Games to be held in Cuba.

The government has refused to allow ABC to televise the Games, which feature athletes from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, because the network would have to pay a fee of about \$6.5 million to a Cuban organisation in violation of the trading with the enemy act.

The United States has a trade embargo against Cuba under that act, prohibiting US citizens and businesses from certain transactions with Cubans. ABC is seeking a court order authorising it to enter into an agreement to televise the Games, preventing the government from levelling sanctions against it under the act and from regulating its broadcasts.

The Games, which are held every four years, are scheduled for August 2-18, 1991.

The suit, filed in Manhattan Federal Court, accuses Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady and R. Richard Neuwirth, director of the Office of Foreign Asset Control, of violating the network's rights of freedom of the press.

The US Olympic Committee has received permission to send a team of athletes to the Games and Congress has authorised grants of up to \$16 million to subsidise expenses of those athletes, the suit said.

In a December 1 letter to ABC, Neuwirth said, "It is, of course, not the intention of the US government or of this office to prevent US television viewers from seeing the 1991 Pan American Games. Our sole concern is that ABC's proposal would transfer very substantial sums to Cuba."

ABC said in the suit that it is industry practice to pay a fee to the host for the right to televise athletic events.

Evans wins again at US meet

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec 5, (Reuters): American Janet Evans won the 400 metres individual medley yesterday for her second victory at the US Swimming Open at the International Aquatics Centre.

Evans, 18, the triple Olympic gold medalist who won the 400 metres, and the 400- and 800-metres freestyle events at Seoul, won this medley in four minutes 48.09 seconds.

Evans trailed Yugoslav national champion Anna Petricovic during the butterfly leg but surged ahead on the backstroke and held on through the breaststroke and freestyle legs.

Petricovic, a 1988 Olympian who is the daughter of 1968 gold medalist breastroker Djadjidje Bjedov, was second in 4:51.86.

"There is no shame in finishing second, but someday I will be able to beat Janet Evans," Petricovic said. "She has just worked longer and harder than I have, but that's going to change this year."

Yesterday, Evans won the 400 metres freestyle in 4:12.13 but then finished second in the 200 metres backstroke to end her long course winning streak at 27.

Evans finished out of her accustomed winner's place again on Sunday when she touched third in the 200 metres freestyle behind compatriots Nicole Haislett and Mitzi Kremer.

Olympic silver medalist Anders Holmertz of Sweden won the 200 metres freestyle in 1:49.43, out-touching US Olympian Troy Dalbey.

"It wasn't my best time, but after being sick with a virus, I was just happy to win," said Holmertz, who is currently ranked second in the world over 200 metres.

"I am capable of a world best, but not now. I am getting stronger from lifting weights. I think I am a year away from breaking a world record."

Former world record holder Sergei Zabolotnov of the Soviet Union won the 100 metres backstroke in 57.31, ahead of US Olympian Dan Veatch in 57.35.

The three-day meet was to conclude this evening.

Trail Blazers blast Magic

ORLANDO, Florida, Dec 5, (AP): Sparked by its defense, the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the second half to defeat the Orlando Magic 121-95.

The Trail Blazers outscored Orlando 66-44 in the second half to push its record to 13-4, second best in the NBA. Jerome Kersey scored 22 points and Kevin Duckworth had 19 for Portland in the League's only game last night.

Orlando was led by Reggie Theus' 17 points. Terry Catledge added 16 and Jerry Reynolds 13. Portland led 55-51 at halftime.

But Kersey had 11 points as Portland outscored the Magic 29-14 in the first eight minutes of the third quarter to take an 84-62 lead.

Portland's swarming defense made the difference, cutting off the Magic's inside game in the second half. The Trail Blazers also got its running game going, scoring 26 points on fastbreak opportunities after intermission.

Catledge scored only two points in the second half, while Theus had four.

Besides Kersey and Duckworth, Portland got double-figure scoring from Clyde Drexler with 18 points, Buck Williams and Terry Porter each with 16 and rookie Cliff Robinson with 15.

'Over 30 Soviets tested positive'

MOSCOW, Dec 5, (Reuters): More than 30 Soviet athletes tested positive for drugs this year, a leading official confirmed yesterday.

"Out of about 4,000 tests on Soviet athletes this year, at least 30 proved positive," said the official, an aide to deputy sports minister Vasily Gromyko.

"That includes tests both inside and outside the country."

The disclosures, which follow last month's unprecedented admission by East Germany that 14 of its athletes had failed dope tests this year, represent a clear change in policy towards doping by sports chiefs in the Soviet Union.

The new openness was reflected in a television report last week which showed a document signed in 1982 by two deputy sports ministers prescribing anabolic steroids as part of the preparation for Soviet cross-country skiers.

The document set out a programme to test the effects of steroids and for research into ways of avoiding detection.

While it was aimed at low ranking athletes, it was clear from the text that it was to be used by the team preparing for the 1984 Olympics.

The programme talked to the head of the laboratory responsible for the research. He did not deny the existence of the plan but said the situation had since changed completely.

"We really started the fight against doping in 1988 when an agreement was signed with the United States," he said.

That bilateral testing agreement is due to take full effect next year and every positive doping test on a Soviet athlete is now made public.

Anatoly Kovrizhnykh, head of the scientific department of the Soviet sports committee (Goskomsport), said yesterday it was eventually hoped to introduce criminal legislation to counter drug use in sport.

"We want the punishment to be as strict as possible," he said.

But one former athlete who declined to be named said: "The abrupt change of Soviet position on doping might have two reasons. Either they try to fall in line with the general trend in the sports world or they have found something to substitute anabolics."

MEE overcome Bulls Hitters

MIDDLE EASTENDERS, (MEE), came through the first of three hard matches with a hard fought victory over Bulls Hitters in last week's round of Mouchel Wednesday Darts League matches.

The tension of the occasion was evident as high scores were notably lacking, and it was left to Ian Moorhouse to hit 3 100s as he defeated Jack Boyd to give the home side an unbeatable 3-0 advantage. The battle of the captains was won by John Watson before the first Mickey Mouse also went the MEE's way as they secured both points.

In an extremely close ladies game Bulls Hitters kept their heads and their 3-1 win puts them 2 points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand, as they confined last season's third place team to a fourth game without a win.

In a similar situation are the reigning ladies champions Filles, who found themselves on the end of a 4-0 pasting from Lady Tossers, although Evelina Breznik showed how things could have been with 2 MM trebles and 3 bulls to register her 5th and 6th high scores of the season. Ann Fitzmaurice also threatened to spell trouble for the Tossers as she too had 2 MM trebles, but it was not to be, as Lady Tossers move back to second in the League.

Showers of Tossers continued their roller coaster season conceding a 3-3 draw to Dinar Soarers in a game they normally would expect to win. Dave Fitzmaurice adding to the family's tally with 3 high scores. Has Beans found Fintas 3-1ers on their usual 2-4 form, although for a while it looked as though their chances had gone for a burton as Alun Thomas finally hit a counting 140. Soweto Singers had a slow start at Blackouts, where 140s were registered for Doug Francis and

Richard Durrant. Geoff Clark and John Scott both had 3 100s and Francis also managed the considerable feat of busting 141. Jacqueline Moss had 2 MM trebles as she led Blackouts back from a game down twice in their draw with Avengers.

The battle of the New English School went in favour of the Celtic division. Wearaspeel snatching 9 out of 10 games from Grabbers, Jane Drake scoring 121. Skipper Ron Finch led by example with a 140 as Absolutely showed a chink in the Chucks armour with a good draw. Lorraine Bond proved to be no laughing matter, as her 2 MM trebles helped to defeat Chucks.

Mugs Away stayed in touch with a 4-2 result against the gradually improving No Hoppers, Derek McGowan hitting his 2nd 140, but Northern Lights went one better in winning their first point despite Mary Haseman's 2 MM trebles. Equalisers, now well back on track, won again, greatly helped by 6 100s from Alan Wild, even though four play had taken a 2-0 lead. Nibblers sprung a major surprise on Zero Down with their first defeat but Zero-Up made amends by taking a point by winning both MM legs, and Pacifists swept past Fintasics. Billy Slime checking out with a 105 even though Geoff Green earned his 140 trophy for the home team.

The full results summary for this weeks Mouchel Wednesday Darts League fixtures is as follows, with Ladies scores in brackets:

Fintasics (112) Pacifists (34)
Has Beans (214) Fintas Flyers (212)
Mugs Away (104) No Hoppers (212)
Wearaspeel (514) Jabriya Grabbers (110)
Chucks (113) Absolutely (313)
Nibblers (312) Zero-Up (113)
Middle Eastenders (114) Bulls Hitters (312)

Developing Darts of the Week

Blackouts (21) Soweto Singers (42)
For Play (02) Equalisers (212)
Dinar Soarers (03) Shower of Tossers (413)

Mens League Table

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Blackouts	9	8	1	0	41	13	17
For Play	9	8	0	1	41	13	16
Dinar Soarers	9	7	2	0	39	15	16
Middle E	8	6	2	0	32	16	14
Has Beans	8	6	2	0	32	16	14
Soweto S	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Chucks	8	6	0	2	31	17	12
Mugs Away	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Wearaspeel	8	6	0	2	31	17	12
Bulls Hitters	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Absolutely	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Equalisers	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Nibblers	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Pacifists	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Dinar S	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Showers of T	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Fintasics	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Four Play	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Blackouts	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Zero-Up	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Jabriya G	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
Fintas F	8	5	2	1	35	13	12
No Hoppers	8	5	2	1	35	13	12

Ladies League Table

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bulls M	8	7	1	0	24	8	15
Lady T	8	7	1	0	24	8	15
Pacifists	8	7	1	0	24	8	15
Zero-Down	8	7	1	0	24	8	15
Barbed C	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Equalisers	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Nibblers	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Fintasics	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Middle E	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Absolutely	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Chucks	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Filles	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Avengers	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Blackouts	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Humana Beans	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Mugs Away	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Jabriya G	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Fintas F	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Two Fly	8	6	0	2	19	11	12
Northern L	8	6	0	2	19	11	12

BKME, Lanka Colts and Salmiya triumph

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Seahawks squeak by Bills

SEATTLE, Dec. 5. (AP) The Seattle Seahawks squeaked by the Buffalo Bills 17-16 in last night's National Football League game.

"We finally made some plays," Seahawks coach Chuck Knox said after his team snapped a four-game slide. "We have had good effort, but we haven't made the plays you have to make to win. We made them tonight."

Dave Krieg made many of the key plays, particularly a 51-yard touchdown pass to John L. Williams with 5:38 remaining in the game.

In his first start after being benched for two games, Krieg avoided a heavy rush and lobbed the ball over linebacker Ray Bentley. Williams grabbed it at the 35 yard line, rumbled down the right sideline, got a block from Brian Blades and ran over Nate Odum and into the end zone.

Earlier, Krieg hit rookie tight end Travis McNeal on a similar play for 48 yards, the team's biggest play of 1989 until the game-winner.

The victory damaged Buffalo's chances of catching Denver for the best record in the AFC. The Bills (8-5) still lead the AFC East by one game over Miami.

Krieg went over 20,000 yards in career passing on Seattle's final drive of the first half with a 26-yard completion to Brian Blades. He almost found Blades in the end zone on that drive, but Cliff Hale tipped the ball away at the last second.

Krieg was a lot more effective than Jim Kelly, the AFC's top-rated passer. Seattle held Kelly to 100 yards in his last start.

Seattle's defense was aided by a 100-yard interception by Cliff Hale. The Bills' defense was aided by a 100-yard interception by Cliff Hale.

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Odds stacked against Italian League leaders Napoli face difficult task

LONDON, Dec. 5. (Reuters) Doubts about the fitness of Diego Maradona and other key players have left the odds stacked heavily against holders Napoli surviving their visit to Werder Bremen tomorrow and reaching the UEFA Cup quarterfinals.

Napoli trail Werder 3-2 from the first leg and, despite moving four points clear at the top of the Italian League with a 3-1 win over Atalanta on Sunday, trainer Alberto Bigon believes his side has only an outside chance of qualifying.

Maradona, nursing a back strain, played only the last 10 minutes against Atalanta and remains far from his best. So, too, does Brazilian striker Careca, while his compatriot Alemão misses the game after being carried off in the first leg.

"We have to play an attacking game but with intelligence," Bigon said. "We mustn't leave ourselves exposed because Werder are so dangerous on the counter-attack."

Libero Alessandro Renica is expected to return from injury as Napoli attempt to make amends for their first defeat of the season. But Bigon said yesterday: "Until yesterday I gave myself a 15 per cent chance of qualifying."

After their convincing win against Atalanta, I'm adding another five per cent considering how much morale has improved."

Napoli are one of three Italian clubs chasing places in the last eight of the competition with Juventus taking a 2-1 lead to East Germany's Karl-Marx-Stadt and Fiorentina defending a 1-0



Rahn (left) will get support from Litbarski (right), with the ball during their match against Red Star.

advantage in the Soviet Union against Dynamo Kiev.

But the West Germans could be represented by four sides, although two of their teams face contrasting return legs.

Cologne needing to overturn a 2-0 deficit at home against Red Star Belgrade while Hamburg defend a slender 1-0 advantage in Portugal against Porto.

Cologne trainer Christoph Daum has promised to commit six men to attack against the

Yugoslavs. "The cards are clearly on the table. We will risk everything," he said, adding that central strikers Falko Goetz and Uwe Rahn would be supported at every opportunity by wingers Ralf Sturm and Frank Ordenewitz and midfielders Pierre Litbarski and Thomas Haessler.

Cologne's task may be helped by the absence of Red Star's regular goalkeeper Stefan Stojanovic — 19-year-old Zoran Milojovic will deputise — and



top Yugoslav scorer Darko Panecov.

Trainer Willi Reimann will well remember Hamburg's visit to Porto 14 years ago when he scored his side's vital goal which sent them through on aggregate despite a 2-1 defeat.

Reimann remains optimistic that the present side can emulate that performance. But the West Germans have taken only four points from their last 10 away League games and, to make mat-

ters worse, they expect to be without injured midfielder Sascha Jusufović, while defender Hans-Werner Moser is suspended.

Porto, European champions in 1987, will be without suspended top scorer Rui Aguas as they go in search of the two goals needed to send them through.

But confidence remains high, assistant coach Octavio Machado promising: "If we beat Hamburg, and I think we will, then there is nothing to stop us going on to win the Cup."

England will be seeded: report

LONDON, Dec. 5. (AP) England will be among the six seeds in next summer's World Cup, a move meant to try to control violence among its soccer fans, the Times of London reported today.

The newspaper quoted anonymous sources close to the organizing committee of Fifa, the world soccer body, as saying the English would get the final seeding in place of Spain, and would be based in Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

Fifa officials were unavailable for immediate comment on the report, which contradicted earlier ones.

Seatings are scheduled to be announced in Rome on Thursday. The draw for the 24-team tournament will take place on Friday.

Soccer and government officials from England, including Sports Minister Colin Moynihan, have argued that keeping the team on an island for the three first-round matches was the best way of controlling fan violence.

Moynihan has been in Italy since last weekend, trying to convince organizers to either seed England or pre-assign the team to a remote, secure city.

The World Cup begins in 12 Italian cities next June 8 and finishes in Rome July 8.

English fans have a reputation as among the worst soccer hooligans in the world.

that England would be excluded from the seedings, which are based on a team's results in previous World Cup and continental championships. The sources said Spain had a slightly better record that could not be ignored.

In an interview last week with the Italian sports newspaper Corriere dello Sport, Fifa president Joao Havelange was quoted as saying that England would not be seeded.

But the Times said that the records for England and Spain were so close — both teams were eliminated in the quarterfinals in Mexico City in 1986 — that Fifa organizers had room to maneuver and decided to seed England.

Offside rule to be changed

LONDON, Dec. 5. (Reuters) Soccer's offside rule is set to be changed next year in a move to improve the game.

International Football Federation (Fifa) spokesman Guido Tononi confirmed yesterday that the sport's governing body was considering changing the rule to allow an attacker to receive the ball when standing level with the opposing side's last outfield player without being judged offside.

Fifa said in its monthly bulletin that it would consider a proposal to alter the rule at its annual meeting.

Weightlifter missing his wife

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Dec. 5. (AP) Turkish officials go to the Soviet Union this month in search of two documents close to the heart of weightlifting champion Hafiz Suleymanoglu.

If they don't come back with one, they might as well forget the other.

Suleymanoglu defected to Turkey last September, and the officials are seeking an exit visa for his wife and permission from Soviet authorities to waive the one-year delay usually imposed before an athlete who leaves one country may represent another in international competition.

Suleymanoglu says he won't compete internationally until his wife is allowed to join him in his new home.

"I cannot concentrate during the training, because I am obsessed by the absence of my wife Nonna," the 22-year-old lifter said.

Suleymanoglu defected last September after winning the 56-kilogramme (123-pound) class at the World Weightlifting Championships in Athens, Greece. His masseur, Vitaly Stabrov, also defected.

Soviet coach Alexi Medvedev, under whom Suleymanoglu trained for three years, was removed after the defections.

In an interview in the western Turkish city of Sakarya, Suleymanoglu said he was training for two

hours daily even though he will not be able to participate in an international competition until next September under to international rules.

He could compete earlier if the Soviet Union gives him permission, as the Bulgarians did when Naim Suleymanoglu defected to Turkey before the 1988 Olympics, the Turks paid Bulgaria \$1 million in that case.

Naim Suleymanoglu, known as the "Pocket Hercules" because of his small stature and extraordinary strength, is not related to Hafiz.

Unless the one-year rule is waived, Suleymanoglu will miss the European Championship in Copenhagen next May. That's why Turkish officials will travel to the Soviet Union — that, and to try to reunite the weightlifter with his wife.

"I am hopeful," Suleymanoglu said about both requests.

Suleymanoglu lives in a sports centre in Ankara and is looking for a job.

"I am considering offers by two clubs, one in Istanbul and the other in Adana," he said.

He said he received offers from Istanbul's Sariyer and Adana's Cukobirlik clubs but declined to reveal financial aspects of the offers. He said he could opt for Sariyer because he would prefer to live in Istanbul.

Spanish referees

MADRID, Dec. 5. (Reuters) Spain's soccer referees are upset by accusations of bias and some have threatened to go on strike.

Jose Antonio Mazorra Freire told the referees' general assembly yesterday: "I propose a strike to end the continuous slander we are getting from the professional football establishment."

Expansion plans

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, Dec. 5. (AP) Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent's plans for expanding the game include bringing US-style professional play to Europe. Vincent yesterday also targeted drugs and improved relations with the players during his first state-of-the-game address, at baseball's winter meetings.

S. Korean climbers

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Dec. 5. (AP) An 11-member South Korean high school's Alpine team left yesterday to begin a weeklong trek to the base camp for its attempt to climb 6,437-metre (21,113-foot) Mount Langshisha Ri.

Racing track

HALEAH, Florida, Dec. 5. (AP) Hialeah Park, a historic racing track struggling with low attendance and a drop in proceeds from last year, has asked the Florida pari-mutuel commission to hold an emergency meeting to grant it permission to shut down early this season.

Brazilians win

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Dec. 5. (AP) The Brazilian Seniors National Soccer Club beat a team of ex-New York Cosmos stars 3-1 yesterday. Brazil's goals were scored by Paulo Isidoro, Luis Pereira and Edmundo, while Cubillas notched the only goal for the Cosmos.

Soviet soccer

MOSCOW, Dec. 5. (Reuters) The Soviet First Division will be enlarged next season from 16 to 18 teams as a result of sweeping changes being made by the country's soccer federation, the government daily Izvestia said yesterday.

Split decision

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 5. (UPI) A controversial split decision yesterday gave the World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title to Richard Boone Pultz of the United States, while opponent Magne Havna of Norway was left out in the cold. The bout, which went all 12 rounds, ended with two judges deciding in favour of the American, 116-113 and 115-114, while the third favoured Havna 115-118.

Downhill race

BERN, Switzerland, Dec. 5. (AP) Lack of snow yesterday forced the rescheduling of a Dec. 5 men's World Cup downhill race at Val d'Isère, delaying the start of the ski circuit's European leg by a day.

Lendl ends year as number one

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (Reuters) Ivan Lendl ended the year as the top-ranked tennis player despite losing in the semifinals of the Masters tennis tournament, according to figures released yesterday by the Association of Tennis Professionals.

Lendl also overtook Boris Becker of West Germany as the top money winner due to the bonus money he earned on the Grand Prix circuit. The US-based Czechoslovak earned \$2,344,367 in 1989 compared with \$2,216,823 for his rival.

Despite the computer rankings, there is controversy over whether Lendl is really the number one player. He won 10 tournaments, far more than Becker, but lost to the West German in the two that mattered most, Wimbledon and the US Open.

"Right now I'm kind of the unofficial number one," Becker said after losing in Sunday's Masters final to Sweden's Stefan Edberg, who eliminated Lendl in Saturday's semifinals.

Edberg finished third in the rankings and third in prize money with \$1,655,491 after a frustrating year in which he had lost six of seven finals before winning the Masters.

Edberg believes his victory over Becker in the Masters could be the key to Sweden's Davis Cup.

"I believe we have a good chance," Edberg said of Sweden's Davis Cup hope. "Boris is really the key to their team."

"If I can manage to beat him or if Mats (Wilander) can beat him, then we have a good chance."

Edberg and Wilander will lead Sweden into the Davis Cup final against defending champion West Germany and Becker on Dec. 15-17 in Stuttgart, West Germany.

Sweden has dominated Davis Cup play, having reached the final of the team tennis event every year since 1983. The Swedes won in 1984, defeating the United States, in 1985, defeating West Germany, and in 1987, defeating India.

Last year, West Germany won, crushing Sweden 4-1 behind Becker.

The ATP-ITF war to stage the most prestigious finale to the season took a new twist yesterday when two possible rival tournaments surfaced to succeed the Grand Prix masters which ended on Sunday.

Ion Tiriac said after the Masters final that he planned to stage a \$10-million tournament in West Germany next December, while Masters tournament director Gene Scott said he was working on plans for a United States versus Europe three-man team contest at about the same time.

Tiriac's event would compete with the \$6 million Grand Slam cup devised by the International Tennis Federation in an apparent attempt to upstage a \$4 million contest scheduled by the Association of Tennis Professionals.

All three would take place in West Germany, with Tiriac's directly competing with the ITF's Grand Slam Cup.

The ITF tournament has come under criticism from most top players who charge that it is an attempt to undermine the ATP's player-run tour which will begin next year, replacing the Grand Prix circuit run by the Men's Tennis Council.

Becker has said he would not play in the Grand Slam Cup. Only Lendl has said he would play in the event which offers a \$2-million first prize.

Tiriac, a former Romanian Davis Cup player, has one major ace in his hand — he is the manager of Becker who can guarantee a box office sellout in West Germany.

His event would allocate \$4-million in prize money with the other \$6 million going into a player pension fund and the development of junior tennis in West Germany.

Scott, Masters tournament director for the past five years, said his team competition would take place in New York from December 7 to 9, in the ATP's off season.

He said that the players, including Lendl and spokesmen for Becker and John McEnroe, had expressed support for his team concept. He did not mention the prize money.

The sign of good taste



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BAHRAIN	09 TO 12 DEC	MERIDIAN
ABU DHABI	12 TO 15 DEC	INTERCONTINENTAL
JEDDAH	15 TO 17 DEC	MARRIOTT
CAIRO	17 TO 19 DEC	NILE HILTON
AMMAN	19 TO 21 DEC	MARRIOTT

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Inter-bank bowling

Teresa Estores of the Kuwait International Hotel took the High Game and the High Series at the Inter-Bank Mitsubishi Pajero Bowling Tournament, sponsored by Al Mulla Group of Companies. Kuwait International Hotel, which took part in the event in the capacity of host hotel, won the event. Al Ahli Bank were second and Commercial Bank third. The other participating banks were BKME, Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait House and the United Bank of Kuwait. Above: Teresa receives her prize from Ivan Pacheco (left) director, Al Mulla Group.

Calcavecchia angers Aussies

SYDNEY, Dec. 5. (Reuters) British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia faces a fine after pulling out of a major Australian tournament at the last minute pleading tiredness.

The US star was due to present an award at a major ceremony honouring Australia's sporting stars of the 1980s this evening before turning out for the \$750,000 Australian Golf Classic starting in Melbourne on Thursday.

Yesterday, hours after finishing fourth in the Australian Open, Calcavecchia told organisers of the classic he was flying home as he felt jaded and was missing his family.

"It is a clear case of a breach of the PGA laws and he will be fined accordingly," a spokesman for the Australian PGA said today. "A player of his stature cannot be allowed to renege on his contract at virtually the last minute."

Aamer, Shoaib and Miandad shine Pakistan hit 416 for three

LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 5, (AP): Pakistan made 416 for three wickets at the close of play today, the fourth day of the third Test match against India.

Javed Miandad was batting at 84 at the close of play and Shoaib Mohammad was 90 not out.

The two Pakistani batsmen got together at 354 for two and added 62 runs in 90 minutes of post tea play.

With only one day of play left Pakistan trail 93 runs behind India's first innings total of 509.

India and Pakistan's previous two Tests have ended in tame draws and it appears this third round will end the same.

The highlight of today's play was Javed Miandad, who was batting at 84 at the close of play, when he passed England's Colin Cowdrey's total Test score of 7,624 runs to climb to sixth spot on the list of top 10 run getters in Test cricket.

Miandad played a very cautious and slow innings, getting the 84 runs in 243 minutes with the help of three boundaries, while Shoaib got his 90 in 214 minutes and hit 10 boundaries.

Earlier in the morning, Aamer Malik hit his second consecutive



Javed Miandad: batting patiently

century.

The right-hand batsman, resuming on 60 not out followed yesterday's rest day, made a solid 113 before falling to left-arm spinner Maninder Singh immediately before lunch.

Pakistan, who began the day at 159 for one in reply to India's huge first innings total of 509, need a further 62 to avoid the follow on.

Aamer, who made 117 in the second Test at Faisalabad, had

batted for 344 minutes and struck 11 fours when he popped up a catch to substitute fielder Wakeri Raman at silly point.

The Khaddafi stadium pitch, a batsman's paradise, offered precious little help to the Indian attack, with only Maninder scoring any success.

He earlier removed Salim Malik, who was caught by Sanjay Manjrekar at short square leg for 53, having added 25 to his overnight score.

Scoreboard
INDIA first innings 509 (Sanjay Manjrekar 218, Mohammad Azharuddin 77, Ravishastri 61)
PAKISTAN first innings (overnight 158 for one)
Aamer Malik c sub (Raman) 113
b Maninder 84
Rameez Raja c More b Prabhakar 63
Salim Malik c Manjrekar 55
b Maninder 84
Javed Miandad not out 84
Shoaib Mohammad not out 90
Extras (b-1, lb(2, nb-8) 11
Total (three wickets) 416
Fall of wickets: 1-100, 2-223, 3-248.
To bat: Imran Khan (captain), Wasim Akram, Majeed Abbas, Abdul Qadir, Akram Raza, Shahid Mahmood.
Bowling (to date): Kapil Dev 22-2-61-0, Prabhakar 26-1-69-1, Maninder Singh 48-4-128-2, Ayub 37-4-130-0, Srikanth 1-0-5-0.

Fiery Freddie honoured

LONDON, Dec 5, (AP): Freddie Trueman, who made cricket history with his bowling and headlines with his mouth, was honoured by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II today and said he was more nervous than he ever had been on the field.

"I would rather have faced Wesley Hall, the great West Indian fast bowler," Trueman said after being named an officer of the Order of the British Empire at Buckingham Palace.

He said he and the Queen chatted about cricket as she presented the award, part of her annual birthday honours list.

Once labelled "The greatest living Yorkshireman," Trueman played from 1949-69 and took 2,304 wickets. He was the first bowler to claim 300 wickets in Test matches and wound up with 307.

But Trueman was just as well known for his temper. He earned the nickname "Fiery Freddie" for outbursts that eventually got him in trouble with cricket's top brass.

At the palace, Trueman said his image was far from reality.

Czechs using drugs: Odlozil

PRAGUE, Dec 5, (Reuters): Czechoslovak athletes have used drugs for years with the knowledge of the country's top sports officials, 1968 Olympic silver medalist Josef Odlozil has revealed.

At least 80 per cent of the Czechoslovak team at the 1983 Athletics World Championships in Helsinki, at which Jarmila Kratochvilova won two golds, were taking drugs. Odlozil was quoted as saying in the Prague daily Svobodne Slovo.

Use of outlawed substances was strictly supervised by trainers, doctors and officials, he said in a series of articles in the newspaper over the past 10 days.

Odlozil, a 1,500 metres silver medalist at the Mexico Games, also admitted using anabolic steroids.

"Naturally I never bought them myself. The distributors came through the highest officials, via doctors and trainers down to the athletes," he said.

"When I found out how much I and others had actually been taking, I felt like a test rabbit."

Asked how widespread drug use was among Czechoslovak athletes, Odlozil replied: "In my opinion at the world championships in 1983, it was 80 per cent of the team. Maybe more."

"They (the doctors) distributed them," Odlozil said. "All must have known about it. Trainers, doctors, officials, including the then head of the physical culture union."

"But only the athletes risked everything, not the officials and least of all those at the top."

Odlozil, now a track and field coach, explained: "For each series of disciplines one doctor was named who was responsible for distributing the substances. The substances were distributed centrally by those responsible for top performance sport."

Becker, Graf: world champions

LONDON, Dec 5, (Reuters): Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, both Wimbledon and US Open winners were officially declared world champions today by the London-based International Tennis Federation.

Becker finished second to Ivan Lendl in the Grand Prix rankings this year but became the first West German to be named world champion on the strength of his two Grand Slam championship victories and for leading his country to this month's Davis

Cup final against Sweden.

Graf, who also won the Australian Open while losing only twice during the year, was virtually unchallenged in finishing top of the women's circuit points table to retain automatically her title and post a West German double.

Becker was nominated by an ITF panel of former Wimbledon champions Fred Perry, Tony Trabert and Frank Sedgman.

Perry, winner of all four Grand

Slam titles during the mid-1930s and Wimbledon champion from 1934-36, said: "Ivan Lendl may be number one in the rankings and his figures for the year give him a genuine claim to the title."

"But the fact that Boris had a better record in the biggest events and also won the only two matches they played against each other, at Wimbledon and the US Open, had to be decisive."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brazilian driver

ESTORIL, Portugal, Dec 5, (Reuters): Brazilian racing driver Mauricio Gugelmin escaped unhurt from a high-speed crash during tyre testing yesterday. Gugelmin emerged with only bruises when his March spun on the wet Estoril track and hit a barrier.

Australian event

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 5, (AP): Former world top 10 players Kathy Rinaldi of the United States and Hungarian Andrea Temesvari have targeted the \$150,000 Australian Women's Hardcourt Championship as part of their springboard back to the top of women's tennis.

1995 Games

BUFFALO, New York, Dec 5, (UPI): The International Federation of University Sports announced that Fukuoka, Japan has been selected as the site for the 1995 World University Games.

Livermore dies

LONDON, Dec 5, (UPI): Sir Harry Livermore, the top lawyer who defended several of the Liverpool soccer fans facing manslaughter charges after the Heysel stadium tragedy 1985 died yesterday, aged 81.

Nadia Comaneci

MIAMI, Dec 5, (UPI): Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, who stunned the world with a historic string of perfect 10s in the 1976 Olympics, said she plans to settle in Florida and will not work with her former coach in Houston.

Comaneci, 28, arrived in Miami late yesterday with Constantin Panait, 38, a Romanian exile who helped her defect. She said she had previously visited Florida and liked it.

Rojas' appeal

ROME, Dec 5, (Reuters): Chile's appeal against a life ban on national team captain and goalkeeper Roberto Rojas for faking injury in a World Cup qualifier with Brazil is expected to be heard this week. A spokesman for the International Football Federation (Fifa) said today that Fifa's board of appeal would meet either on Thursday or Friday, though he could not say which cases would be dealt with.

Ireland striker

BIRMINGHAM, England, Dec 5, (UPI): English Soccer League title hopeful Aston Villa will not be signing Millwall's Republic of Ireland striker Tony Casciaro, club officials said today.

Hungarian player

BRUSSELS, Dec 5, (UPI): Hungarian soccer international Attila Pinter is likely to play in Belgium early next year. Belgium First Division club Beerschot has taken an option on the player, currently with Ferencváros.

Karsten suit

CHICAGO, Dec 5, (Reuters): Nine professional golfers, including US Ryder Cup player Ken Green, have joined in a suit filed by the Karsten Manufacturing Corporation against the PGA tour following its decision to ban square-grooved irons beginning in January.

Iranian ban

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 5, (AP): Iran will soon lift a semi-official ban on boxing, Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today. Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "has now sanctioned amateur boxing at championship games, which compels fighters to wear protective headgear," said the agency, which is monitored in Nicosia.

\$4 million signing

SOFIA, Dec 5, (Reuters): Bulgarian soccer captain Christo Stoichkov said yesterday he had signed for Spanish club Barcelona for \$4 million.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (10th week) played at the Mesilah Beach Hotel on Monday:

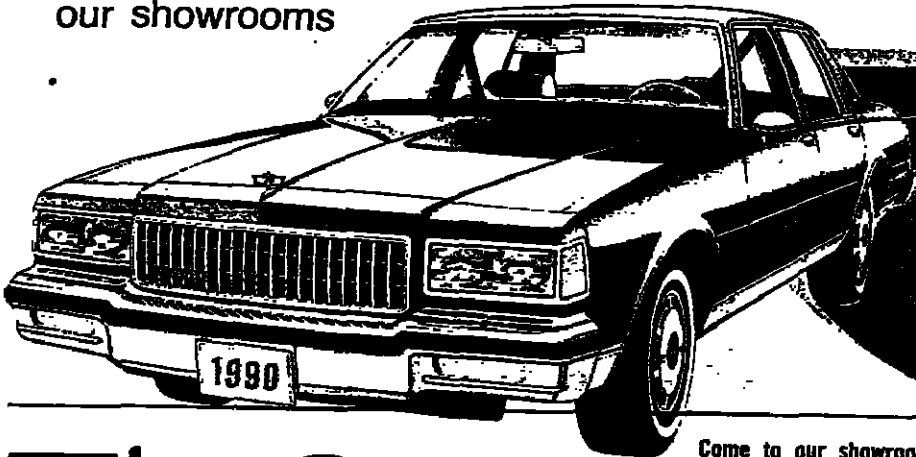
N/S
1. Dr Adel & Sherin
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E/W
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2. Drexler & Carsten
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